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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

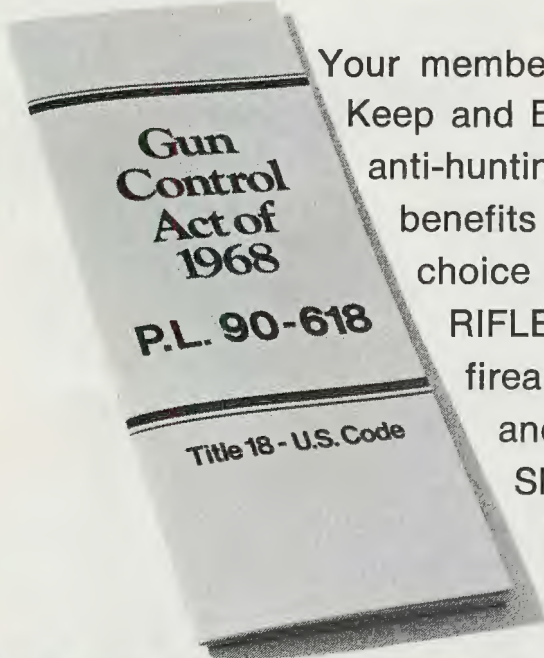
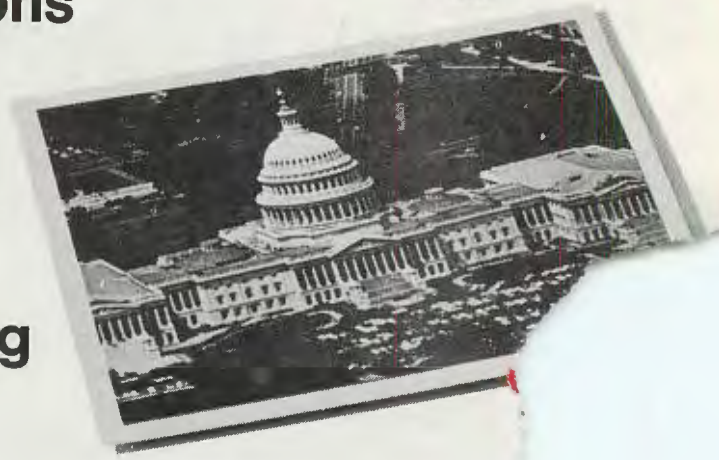
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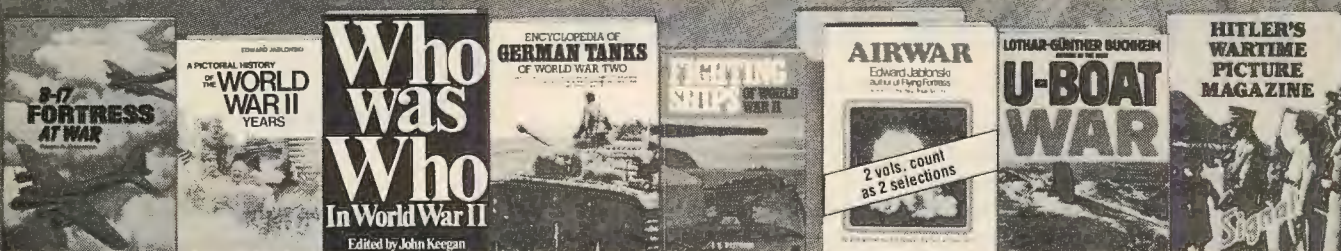
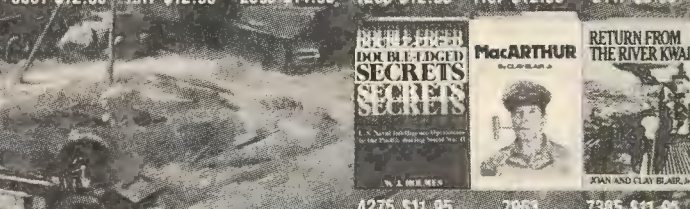
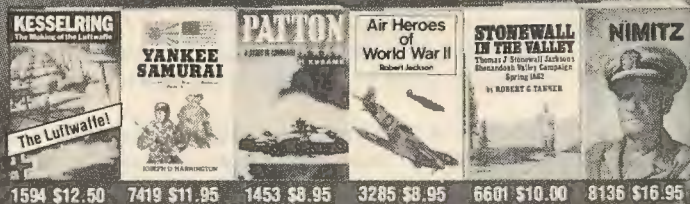
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ELECTION '80

BECAUSE we feel this year's elections could be critical in determining the future of our country, we have a number of politically oriented articles in this issue.

The purpose of these articles — the editorial dealing with Jimmy Carter, the commentaries on your obligation to vote and on the draft, and the congressional charts — is to provide SOFers with some material which will help them form opinions and encourage them to express those opinions at the ballot box on November 4.

In the "big one" SOF is endorsing — without reservation — Ronald Reagan. Our country needs him, but more importantly, cannot afford four more years of Jimmy.

VOTE FOR A VET

FOR our readers in New Jersey Congressional District 15 we have a special endorsement. Bill O'Sullivan, the Republican candidate, is a 33-year-old Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam. To us it is quite interesting that of the 93 current members of Congress who could be Vietnam veterans by virtue of their age, only three actually are. Our readers in New Jersey have a chance to increase that number, and our readers in other areas who might like to contribute to the cause can do so by writing O'Sullivan at Box 1980, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861, or by calling (201) 826-8600.

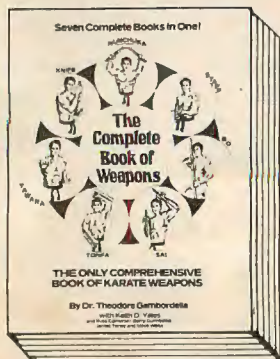
POOS RETURNS TO SOF

FORMER SOF Managing Editor Bob Poos, who has been on a leave of absence from the magazine, has returned to duty with the new title of Executive Editor. In this capacity, he will be freed from some administrative, production and other non-editorial duties and able to devote full time to writing, editing, and other purely editorial-related matters.

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CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs, drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, P.O. BOX 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs should be credited and be accompanied by captions. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication.

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

COVER: South African soldiers (like the one on our cover) struck out into Angola in June in one of the most spectacular raids that country has launched in years. It appears that South Africa is going to increase the war's tempo by hitting SWAPO where it gets ready and rests. When the South Africans go there, so will SOF. Watch for more stories in coming issues.

NOVEMBER/1980

VOL. 5, NO. 11

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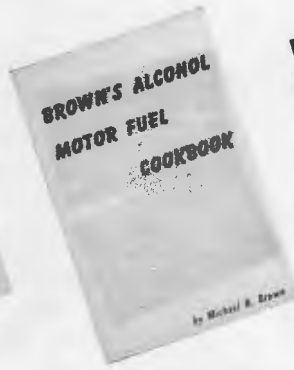


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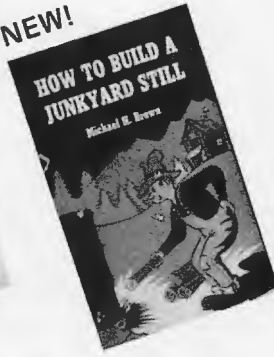
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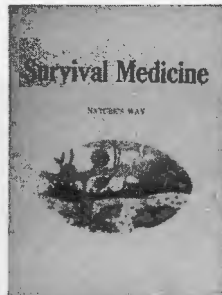


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FLAK

AFGHAN SCOOP CLARIFICATION ...

Sirs:

I'd like to congratulate you. I read with considerable interest "Assignment Afghanistan" in SOF, September '80. Being no great fan of our government intelligence agencies, I think it's a job well done.

However, I feel you're BSing us just a little bit. How is it that the July issue of *American Rifleman* ("Questions and Answers," p. 67) has a picture of the rifle and round in question? There is also a good description of the round and the statement that it has been examined by the NRA technical staff. It also mentions an article published in August 1977 which

provided information on velocity of the 5.45x39mm round.

Is it possible that you and the CIA have both been scooped by the National Rifle Association?

Sincerely,
Dave Butler
Wheatland, Wyoming

We have received several letters similar to yours. The best answer is for us to reprint a letter we received in July from the NRA.

Dear Col. Brown:

I wish to express my appreciation for the opportunity to examine several of the Soviet 5.45 cartridges which your intrepid staff member brought from the battlefield in Afghanistan. Our technical examination of these cartridges is reported in some detail on page 67 of the July American Rifleman as part of a question and answer on the new Soviet AK-74 assault rifle.

So far as I am aware this is the first time that the new cartridges have been available for examination in the United States and your magazine has certainly scored a scoop in acquiring them.

Yours Truly,
Bill Askins
Technical Director
NRA Publications

The problem is caused by what we call lead time, the time between the writing of a story and its appearance on the newsstand. SOF sent out several of the rounds to interested parties for assistance in obtaining technical information about the round and because of the American Rifleman's shorter lead time they got it into print first.—The Eds.

AND NOW TO ERRORS ...

Sirs:

I've just read Dana K. Drenkowski's article, "Flight of the White Eagles" (SOF, August '80). In that article, Drenkowski refers to David Lloyd George (1863-1945) as England's Labor prime minister. A quick check with so exotic a reference work as an encyclopedia would have provided Drenkowski with the information that Lloyd George was a member of the Liberal Party during his tenure as prime minister (1916-1922). Lloyd George didn't join the Labor Party until he was certain that the Liberals were suffering an irreversible decline in popularity. Great Britain didn't have a Laborite as prime minister until Ramsay MacDonald took office in 1924.

Sincerely,
Philip Schuth
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Sirs:

Page 30 of the August '80 issue has the damndest picture of an Albatross D III [sic] I ever saw. Must have been an Eytie contract!

Regards,
John Van Noy
Mesilla Park, New Mexico

To the first Dana Drenkowski replies, "How humiliating! I stand corrected," and to the second the editorial department says ditto — but asks you to look at our September issue for correct identification of the Italian Ansaldo A-1 Balilla and Austrian Albatros D.III.

Continued on page 74





BULLETIN BOARD

by Jim Graves

DEMS ADOPT ANTI-GUN PLANK ...

Part of the 1980 Democratic Party Platform adopted on June 24 includes an anti-gun plank.

The plank declares: "The Democratic party affirms the right of sportsmen to possess guns for purely hunting and target-shooting purposes. However, handguns simplify and intensify violent crime. Ways must be found to curtail the availability of these weapons. The Democratic Party supports enactment of federal legislation to strengthen the presently inadequate regulation of the manufacture, assembly, distribution and possession of handguns and to ban Saturday Night Specials."

There is a considerable difference between the "right of sportsmen to possess guns for *purely* hunting and target-shooting purposes," and the American principle of the "Right to Keep and Bear Arms."

In effect it would do away with the right to possess a firearm for the purpose of self-defense.



SOF BEATS THE PACK ...

In Steve McQueen's latest effort, *The Hunter*, he portrays "Papa" Ralph Thorsen, reputed king of the bounty hunters. We remind our readers that in our Winter, 1977 issue, Thorsen was interviewed and a book about him was reviewed.

SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown (left) discusses overthrow of Albanian communist government with King Leyka, the heir pretender to the Albanian throne, in Salisbury just prior to elections in Rhodesia.

Continued on page 23

In an emergency

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FULL AUTO

by Capt. Jerry Lee

In its September issue, SOF scooped the rest of the world by bringing the first 5.45mm rounds out of Afghanistan, and it now has obtained information on yet another variation of the ubiquitous Avtomat Kalashnikov. During the last months of the Rhodesian war, Security Forces captured a training manual for the Yugoslav FAZ assault-rifle family. Besides covering the well-known FAZ M-70 version of the AK ("The AK-47 and Its Variations," SOF, May '79), this manual

also provides a complete description of a previously unknown AK in 7.62mm NATO caliber. The manual is in English (very few terms read Yugoslav) and is classified *secret* by the Yugoslav government. Obviously, their classified-document control leaves something to be desired.

The 7.62mm NATO version of the FAZ is designated M-71. There is also a folding-stock variation designated M-71A. These rifles are basically the same

in design, function and operation as all other AKs, but numerous modifications have been made to accommodate the longer, more powerful NATO cartridge.

The most notable difference between the M-71 and all other AKs is the magazine. Instead of the familiar long, curved 30-round AK magazine, the M-71 uses a 20-round, straight-box magazine, similar in appearance to an FN-FAL mag. Another obvious difference is the addition of a prominent muzzle brake which reduces recoil energy and allows better control of the weapon during automatic fire due to its powerful 7.62mm cartridge.

All parts of the M-71 action have been lengthened, since the NATO cartridge is significantly longer than the M-43 intermediate cartridge for which the AK was originally designed. (It should be noted here that although the Soviets have also produced a long-action AK — the Dragunov SVD sniper rifle in 7.62x54R caliber — there is little similarity, and no apparent relationship, between the two rifles.) The M-71 also has a longer barrel and different rifling than other AKs. Overall length of the M-71 is 1,020mm (40 inches), compared to 90mm (35.4 inches) for the M-70; the M-71's weight is 4.2kgs (9.3 pounds) compared to 3.7kgs (8.1 pounds) for the M-70.

Continued on page 31

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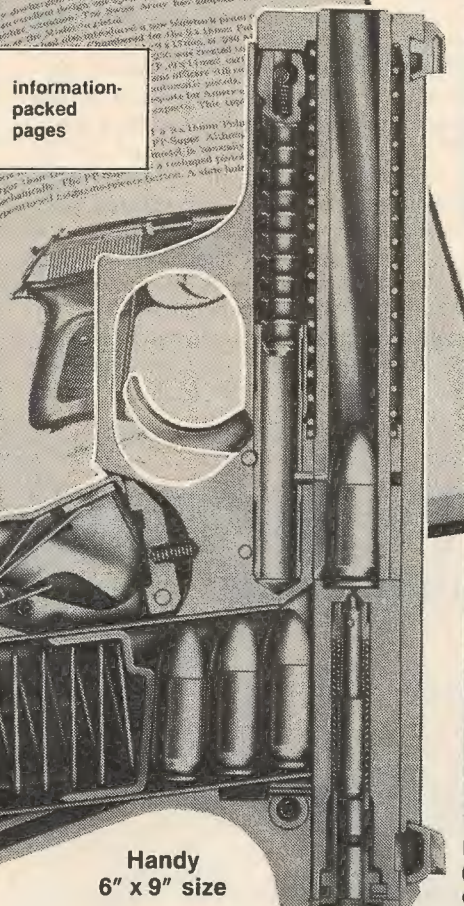
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Terrain & Situation

by Jerry Ahern

IN order to provide greater depth or delineate modifications for my readers, I have covered numerous firearms in this column — sometimes more than once. Unfortunately, as an observer of current events might ruefully agree, the time may be drawing near when column readers and others may need to use firearms to insure personal and family survival — in the event of nuclear disaster, national economic collapse, etc. The importance of firearms for everything from hunting to defense cannot be minimized, and it is frequently discussed in numerous publications.

With this in mind, it might be a good

idea for individuals to take another look at the firearms they own and use: how would these arms function, not individually, but as part of a working battery? Are the right calibers and action types there to perform the necessary jobs? What sort of caliber compatibility is there? Will it be possible to obtain additional ammunition for the selected guns once primary supplies are depleted?

Serious questions, demanding no-bull answers. Let's look at the problem and examine a likely handgun battery. The obvious first choice for a defensive pistol to be carried at all times is a .45 automatic — the more Colt the better from the stand-

point of replacing magazines and spare parts. A second gun (capable of magazine or ammo interchangeability with the first) would be useful to arm another member of the family or survival group, as a back-up while the primary gun is being periodically maintained, or in the event of a part breakdown.

I have handled this problem by having a Colt Mk IV series '70 Government Model .45 with several Colt replacement magazines — the unaltered gun reliable with hollowpoints and solids — and a Detonics .45. Smaller and more easily carried, the Detonics is similar to the Government Model in operating principles, parts and magazine type. I keep some spare Detonics six-round magazines on hand, but not as many as the standard seven-round magazines which function in both guns.

As any survivalist who really knows handguns will tell you, the automatic is ideally suited to defensive use, but the revolver is better suited to many non-defensive handgun chores and will serve as defensive back-up as well.

The Ahern solution seems most logical — the .357 Magnum. Why a .357 Magnum over a more powerful round? The answer is simple: since .38s and .357s are the most commonly encountered revolvers, replacement ammunition would be easily obtainable. With a .357 revolver rather than a .38, one is able to use both rounds in the same gun as availability dictates. Sturdy guns are needed, capable of handling the full gamut of commercial, recommended loads — guns with actions not requiring extensive alteration so that needed replacement parts can be fitted easily to them.

I have gone to two of the strongest .357s made — one large and one small. The first is a six-inch Colt Python, the second a two-inch Lawman. My reasoning is simple: the Lawman is small enough to be easily portable, and cylinder-shaped speed loaders (those from Safariland are excellent) will work with both guns equally well. Also, the Lawman's rugged fixed sights demand little pampering.

Why bother with smaller guns like the two-inch Lawman or the Detonics at all? Often going openly armed might be impossible. If having a revolver at all seems impractical, think again — it can handle a wide variety of loads: special shot, exotic defense, even pattern loads.

Your ideas about the best guns might be totally different, or the best caliber choice for your situation might be mitigated by other circumstances; but the idea of back-up compatibility between individual guns cannot be ignored.

ARMAMENT Systems Products (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 18595, Atlanta, GA 30326, USA), better known as A.S.P., is marketing a clever little knife,

Continued on page 71

Freedom Arms

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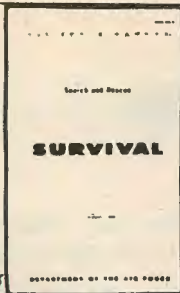


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STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele

USUALLY I avoid evaluating single knives, preferring to compare several knives in the same article. This gives the reader an idea of how each one stacks up against others in the field. Also, not many knives are so good or so original that they justify a full-length evaluation. The new butterfly knife made by Bali-Song Inc. is the rare exception.

As most people know, the *balisong* is the Tagalog name for the knife invented in Batangas Province in the Philippines sometime in the 1940s. Although a similar design has been discovered in an 1872 U.S. patent, the Filipino knife made first wide-scale use of this style. The knife, crafted in barrio shops in Batangas (outlawed since the 1972 martial law, but still in under-the-table operation), usually has a clip or spear-point blade between three and six inches long. Double-edged



Experimental Bali-Song with Samson dagger blade. Photo: Dan Fitzgerald

dagger blades are known, but are rare, since they limit usable opening techniques. Handles are made of brass, aluminum or steel with inserts of *carabao* (water buffalo) horn, wood or plastic. Workmanship varies from good to indifferent. They are constructed of available materials with hand tools in family shops. One rarely sees two alike, and some cannot be opened one-handed at all. Needless to say, quality control leaves much to be desired.

The Filipino martial arts, which include *escrima*, *Kali* and *arnis de mano*, contain a number of knife techniques. In the old days the most common edged weapons were the bolo and the kris. Either of these could be used as jungle knives when they were not dispatching Spanish or American soldiers, not to mention personal enemies. Though the Philippines is a basically agrarian society, with the growth of towns and cities most Filipinos preferred a more concealable knife.

Escrima involves a complex set of circular attacks, blocks and checks. However, once these techniques are learned, they can be adapted to virtually any weapon with a handle. For example, the *balisong* can be used by itself with the left hand making the check, or it can be used as a left-hand weapon in conjunction with a jungle knife or stick in the right hand. The latter style is called *espada y daga* from the Spanish technique of duelling with sword and dagger.

Most often these days a man carries only one edged weapon, which is likely to have a blade of four inches or less. Under these circumstances, a Filipino knife fight is likely to proceed as follows: the *escrimador* uses his hands, feet or improvised weapons to hold his opponent at



Above, Jody Samson "Wee Hawk" boot knife. Below, Bali-Song skeletonized handle with Wee Hawk blade. Photo: Dan Fitzgerald

Continued on page 25

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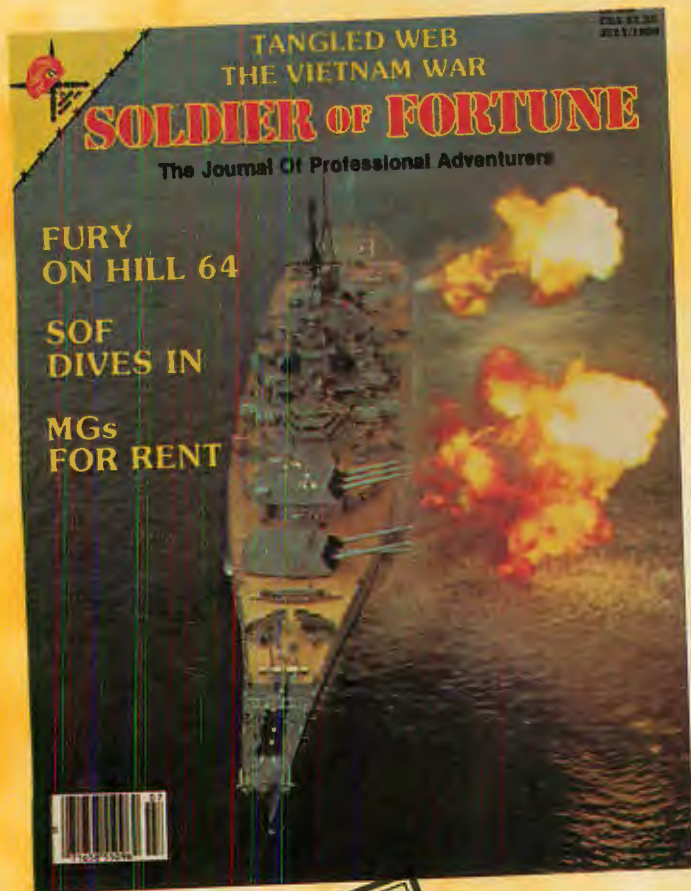
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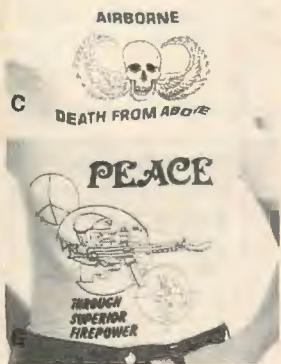


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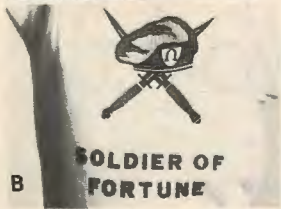
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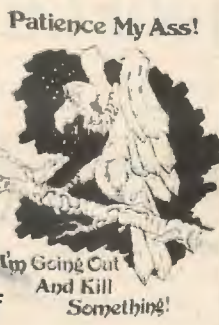


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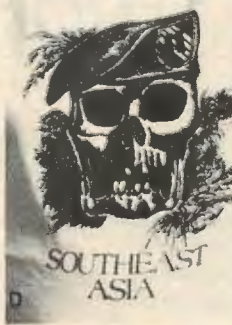
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

by Jeff Cooper & Ken Hackathorn

SOF's Combat Pistolcraft column welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a question or contribution, send it to Jeff Cooper, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Q Tell me about silencers — their cost and where to buy them. I have questions about several guns, and for each one mentioned I'd like to know if a silencer is made for it.

I own a Ruger .44 Magnum with a 6-inch barrel and a Browning .32 Auto made around 1938. Does the stopping power of my .32 exceed the .22 Mag? I ask

because my .32 seems to have as much kick as a .357.

I know of a S&W .357 selling for \$227 — do you think it's worth the price?

I love handguns, and would like to have protection that can be carried inconspicuously. I also want something with stopping power, but can't carry a .44 with a 6½-inch barrel and be discreet. I would like a silencer because, if faced with a mugging or other self-defense situation, I'd hate to make a lot of noise.

Our legal system, as you know, only protects the criminal — and tries its damndest to disarm, humiliate and harass those who obey this nation's laws. We're at the mercy of criminals, terrorists and insurrectionists unless armed in some way. Every day we become more in need of protecting ourselves and our homes as quietly and with as much force as possible. I suspect that eventually the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) could be the secret police of our nation.

L.H.

Ft. Morgan, Colorado

A. *What I can tell you about silencers is:*

1) *They are frowned upon by the authorities.*

2) *They are too bulky to be carried in place on the muzzle, which makes them useless for unexpected action.*

3) *They cannot silence a supersonic missile (Mach 1+).*

4) *Their principle utility is for garage practice in a closed area.*

5) *They are easily homemade.*

You usually get what you pay for. Cheap guns are false economy.

The .32 (and .380) pocket autos are useful primarily as threats. Their stopping power is very low.

Self-defense is indeed viewed askance by the liberals, because they can't make it compulsory. (As Stan Evans says, "Liberals don't care what people do, as long as it's compulsory.") But it is still legal. Just be sure that you are really acting in true self-defense, and the ACLU won't be able to lay a glove on you.

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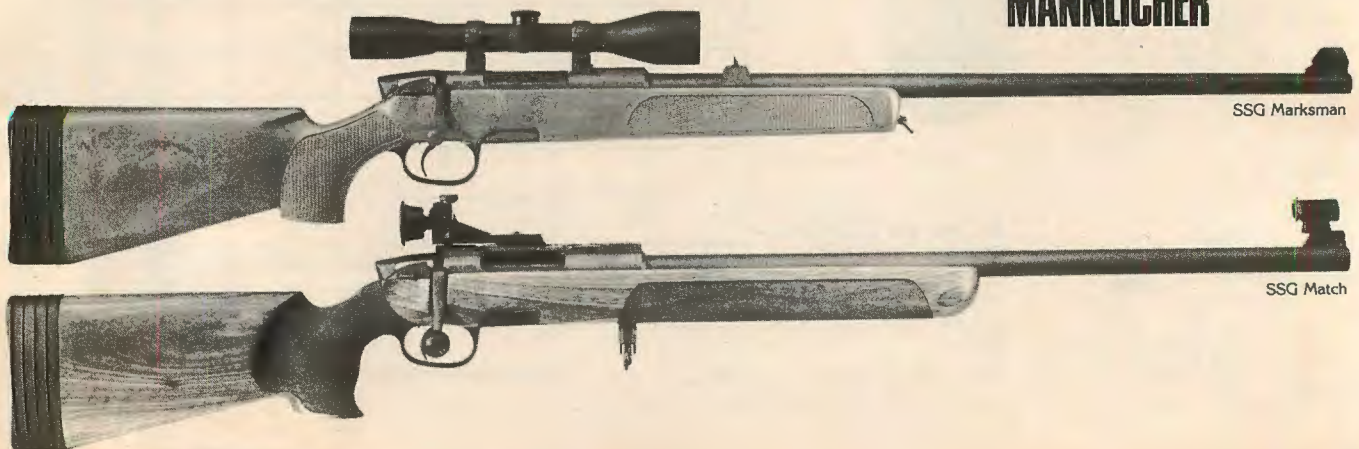
justable sling travel; match bolt; heavy barrel. Four lands and grooves—right hand twist—one turn in 8".

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ORIGINAL



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SSG Marksman

SSG Match

Q I am a Marine who needs information on handguns. I would like a back-up handgun in case my primary weapon is knocked out when I'm engaged in close-quarters combat.

I studied the Remington ballistics reports, and decided that a .357 Magnum would suit my needs best. I've heard that S&W makes the best, most reliable handguns — but don't know much about their different models.

T.L.C.

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

A *It certainly does seem a shame that as a member of a fighting corps you cannot obtain the information that you ask of me from your own superiors.*

Oddly enough, the finest personal-defense sidearm ever built is the issue weapon now being used by the United States armed forces. While the subject is a broad one and capable of much ramification, the fact remains that the .45 auto is the best duty pistol in the world. For proof I can only say that of the 16 qualifiers for the main event in the World Practical Championships held last September in South Africa, every contestant used a .45 auto. That would seem to take care of that.

Q I am an infantry captain on active duty, and made very uncomfortable by the news that the Department of Defense (DoD) is now planning to convert, at great expense, back to the 1908 vintage 9mm Parabellum pistol cartridge.

As an expert in this field, could you help me prepare a convincing argument against this backward step? Could you, in addition, offer any suggestions as to how I might most effectively bring this matter to the attention of the people responsible? Would the National Rifle Association (NRA) be of any help?

It is my life that is being endangered by this proposed shift to a less-effective caliber, and while I do not object to risking it in the line of duty, I think I have not only the right but the obligation to protect it as best I can.

(name and address withheld)

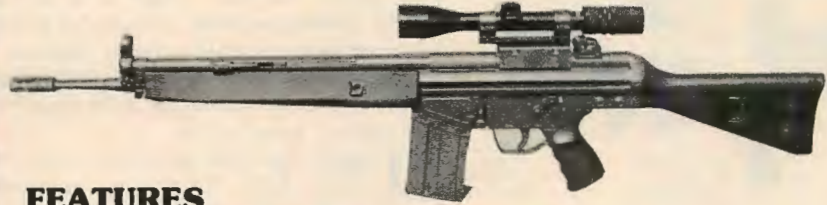
A *The curse of occupational illiteracy has descended soggily upon the entire federal government, specifically the DoD. When a question arises, a committee is formed. No one reads into the subject because a) no one knows its bibliography, and b) busy-work is what money is spent on.*

This matter of pistol effectiveness has been worked over to the point of exhaustion for nearly 100 years. It's all there — down in clear text — but nobody feels called upon to read it. If we are not going to fight anybody, anywhere, for any reason, who cares what sort of weapons we have?

I will certainly provide any material I can to the proper people, but I must first be sure that it is really wanted. I do not

Continued on page 32

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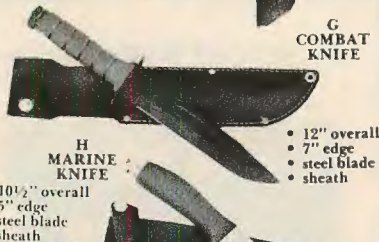
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It Happened To Me

by Jeffrey Stephens
as told to M.L. Jones

Jeffrey Stephens served as a sergeant E-5 forward observer with the 1/5 Mechanized Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1966-67. The following incident occurred during his fifth month in-country. As he tells it:

I heard the crack and dove under the nearest APC. Through its huge track I saw bodies scrambling for cover. On the outer perimeter a guard fired a burst from an M60. He wasn't shooting at anything in particular — the vibrations from inside the camp had set him off.

The captain suddenly appeared. Fairly new to the unit, he was a rank-hungry career officer who had been volunteering us for too much field duty. Kluchnik stumbled from the rear of the APC parked opposite me. He carried his M16 in one hand and a bottle of Vietnamese rum in the other. Most of the rum was gone and so was Kluch. Our platoon wasn't responsible for the night's ambush so we'd all been drinking. Kluchnik was drunker than I'd ever seen him. He was also terrified.

"I'm not goin' back to that fuckin' Hobo. No way I'm going in there again. I'm too goddamned short."

The Hobo Woods scared everybody in the 5th Mech. Between the Hobo, the Bolo and the Michelin rubber plantation, our unit had been worked. More dead and wounded than any battalion in the Division. Earlier, when the choppers had brought in supplies and mail they'd also brought in a rumor: the word from above was three days to maintenance men and equipment and then a major offensive into the Hobo.

"Put down your rifle, Sgt. Kluchnik."

I'd known Kluch since jump school at Ft. Benning. He was a good man. A college drop-out from New Jersey, he was older than most of us. Probably too old. The most effective grunts seemed to be the guys too young to know better.

"Bullshit." Kluchnik fired a round into the dirt between himself and the captain. "You've never been to the Hobo, you bastard. You pricks come out here for a few months, get your rank and split." Kluch fired again and started crying.

There had been a noticeable change in Kluchnik in recent weeks. Disturbed by the callousness and regularity with which we were being sent out on high-risk operations, he'd become sullen. Our unit was mechanized, the personnel carriers protected by four inches of armor plate. When intelligence got a line on Viet Cong activity we were hustled in first. A year earlier that protection might have given us

an edge, but now Charlie had figured us out — one Russian RPG-7 round could easily pierce the armor and turn an APC into a rolling coffin. In the Hobo Woods the RPGs were as common as tree ants.

The captain talked to Kluchnik, denying the Hobo rumor. He swore our unit wouldn't be going anywhere near the woods. "Sgt. Kluchnik, you need a rest. Give me your weapon and I'll send you back to base camp on the first chopper out."

Another short-timer, as drunk as Kluchnik but not as strung out, had bellied up next to me to watch this odd drama unfold. He could contain himself no longer. From under the APC he slid his M16 at the captain. "Here's mine, you asshole. I could use a break myself." The captain ignored the challenge.

Finally Kluchnik dropped his rifle to the ground. He chugged what was left of the rum and hurled the empty bottle down next to the weapon. A staff sergeant quickly grabbed the M16 and a second lieutenant escorted Kluch to the medic.

The next morning Kluchnik and the soldier who tossed his rifle at the CO were both flown to the Division base camp. Kluch was examined by a psychiatrist, found unfit for field duty and spent the rest of his time in-country as sergeant-in-charge of a work gang of Vietnamese locals hired to burn the shit from the base-camp latrines. The other soldier was courtmartialed, busted to private E-1 and completed his tour in the Division stockade.

Three days after the Kluchnik incident our unit pushed into the Hobo Woods. Eleven men were killed in less than a week. The captain was one of them.



I Was There

by John Doe
as told to M.L. Jones

The following incident occurred in Africa's newest "emerging nation" (read that pro-Marxist), so the author seeks anonymity — he's getting out at first opportunity. But until he's safely away, SOF will conceal his identity to protect him and his family from retribution.

LAND reflect upon what the future holds in store. A time to relax amidst the privacy of one's own thoughts. But, today, that was not to be. The radio on my desk blared, directing me to report — armed — to the yard of the main police station in Salisbury, once Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

First I thought that an injured animal required dispatching, an unpleasant but not unusual chore. So I holstered my CZ 9mm semiautomatic pistol. (In my haste to respond, I forgot to check the magazine loads. They were all FNM 9mm ball left over from a recent combat-pistol match. Ordinarily, I'd have replaced them with loads that produced more shock upon impact. This time I hadn't, and I would pay for it.)

I learned that a black man had slashed and seriously wounded two unarmed officers and now stood at bay in the yard, threatening all who approached him.

Two doses of CS (tear) gas had left him virtually undisturbed and he remained belligerent and dangerous.

I motioned for a fellow officer and friend, Jim, to accompany me, armed with a can of Mace and a truncheon.

Bursting into the yard, we saw a maniac (as he turned out to be), 12-inch-blade knife in hand, ignoring surrender pleas and attacking even the trained negotiators.

"Give him a blast of Mace," I directed Jim. He did — three of them, directly in the face. But they just made him more irrational and violent than ever. (We later theorized that mentally deranged persons are barely affected by stun or respiratory-damaging agents.)

He charged Jim with upraised knife and Jim proceeded to effect a "tactical withdrawal." I jockeyed for position but could not shoot because Jim stood directly in my line of fire.

Then the assailant shifted targets and attacked me. But I still had to refrain from triggering off a round, as Jim still remained partially in the field of fire.

In that fraction of a second, the frenzied subject slashed me on the underside of my left wrist, severing an artery, plus several tendons and blood vessels.

As he did, I fired, my pistol almost touching him. The bullet pierced his chest, just missing his heart, and lodged in a parked car. It bothered him no more than a bee sting and he hurtled past me, still brandishing the knife.

I spun and touched off another shot, aiming for — and hitting — the low-center of his back. I would have preferred a head shot but that was out of the question since he was moving and my arm was gushing a fountain of blood.

That round also pierced his body, dropping him to his hands and knees and causing considerable kidney damage on its way through. But he remained conscious and still clutched the knife.

Jim dashed up and rapped him smartly on the head with his riot baton, and that ended further resistance.

The deranged assailant died in an ambulance on his way out of the police compound.

What did I learn from this experience? Well, it seems that neither Mace nor anti-respiratory gasses have much effect on

someone who is mentally disturbed and violent.

Furthermore, I have even less faith now in 9mm ball ammunition, particularly rounds fired at close range. I don't know what effect a .45 would have under the same circumstances, but I do feel that it would produce a greater shock and slow-down effect.

Placing the 9mm vs .45 controversy aside, I do have one definite suggestion:

When confronted with a knife-wielding nut, use a shotgun if at all possible. Time spent locating one might pay off handsomely.



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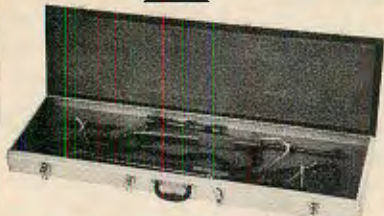
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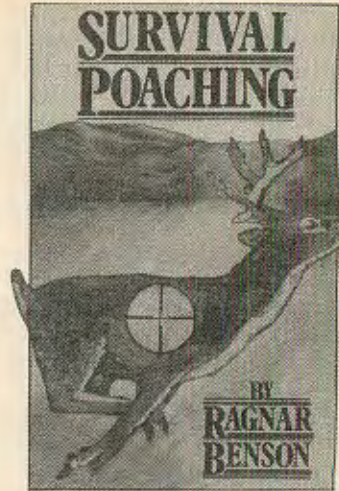
SURVIVAL POACHING. By Ragnar Benson. Boulder, Colorado: Paladin Press. 1980. 256 pp. 30 line drawings. \$12.95. Review by Eugene A. Barron.

WHILE *Survival Poaching* is primarily a "how-to" volume on the taking of various types of game by stealth and cunning, it has far more to recommend it. In the first chapter, entitled "Why Poach?," Ragnar Benson advances some of his experiences with game wardens and some of the laws, regulations and attitudes of officials at various levels of different governments. In this reviewer's opinion, those eight pages should be required reading for every hunter in this country.

Having established a rationale for poaching, the author proceeds to detail just how to go about it. He places great stress on moving quietly and dressing to be totally unobtrusive; for example, the popular nylon "shell" jackets are far too noisy, with old-fashioned wool being the poacher's best answer. The aspects of establishing a territory and protecting it, as well as entrance, exit and evasion tactics are detailed, with special emphasis on taking advantage of natural conditions, such as night and fog. Noiseless equipment, including spears, silencers and subsonic cartridges, binoculars, lights, knives and even hearing aids, are discussed in detail. There is a whole chapter devoted to two-way radios and the use of misleading codes in communicating.

Another chapter deals with homemade poisons and explosives, ideal for the prospective "retreater," while the handling of dynamite, for fishing, is covered exhaustively. No less than eight chapters are devoted to snares and traps of various types, including stream traps for fish. Other chapters deal with specific prolific game, and there is even a section on poaching in urban areas. The mechanics of selling valuable animal products are explored, as are methods of concealing a successful poaching existence.

All in all, this is a delightful book to read, full of true experiences and anecdotes. This reviewer is forcefully reminded of the famous book on African cartridges and rifles written by "Pondoro"



Taylor, one of the most successful and shameless ivory poachers. Both volumes are cheerfully anti-establishment, with a rakish, self-serving and knowledgeable approach to their respective subjects that entertains, as well as informs, the reader. I highly recommend *Survival Poaching* to every hunter and potential retreator.

Eugene A. Barron, *SOF* business manager and also a regular contributor to *In Review*, gave us an amusing footnote to the above review. It seems the fearless minions of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, don't understand that "Ragner Benson" is an obvious pseudonym or that he is not located in the state of Colorado, let alone the Boulder area. These tireless defenders of the faith rushed in to buy copies of the book at a local gunstore upon release, then processed the nom de plume through their faithful computer. Unsuccessful but undaunted, they then instituted a complex computer search pattern program based on the author's indicated license use from the book, again without success.

Any intelligent reader of the book will recognize the consistent pattern of identity obfuscation throughout, both in name and locale. In point of fact, the author makes much of various techniques to protect not only his true name and whereabouts, but to inform readers how to mislead the gendarmerie when using CB radios, how to conceal a successful poaching career upon being searched and the like. But then, courageous bureaucrats like this aren't known for adequate intelligence — or even a sense of humor.



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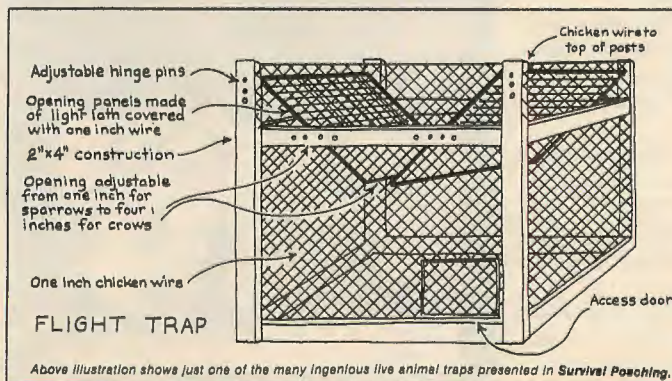
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Continued from page 9

VIETNAM VETS MEMORIAL ...

"We have been struggling, as a Nation, to resolve the many remaining divisions from the Vietnam war. ... the key to resolving Vietnam ... is to accord the Vietnam veteran the dignity of his experience."

The quote above came from the speech of Arkansas Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, when he introduced House Resolution 431 in October 1979. The purpose of the bill was to designate two acres in Constitution Gardens, near the Lincoln Memorial on the Mall, as the site for the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The memorial will consist of a sculpture symbolizing the experience of Americans who served in Vietnam and the memorial park will also include plaques inscribed with the names of the 57,661 Americans who died in the war.

While the land and perpetual care of the memorial — which will be handled by the Department of the Interior — are being handled through government channels, the sculpture and the inscription of the names will be paid for by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (VVMF), a tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

The VVMF, formed in 1979 to raise funds for the erection of the memorial, will cease to exist once the memorial is finished and perpetual care arranged for.

The VVMF does not intend for the memorial to make a political statement about the war. Rather, it will provide a symbol of national solidarity and further the unification of our country after the divisions caused by the war. It is intended as an expression of acknowledgement of the sacrifice of those who served there.

Persons interested in making a contribution or learning more about the memorial project should write: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., 1025 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 405, Washington, D.C. 20036 or call (202) 659-1151.

IVAN SETTLES IN ...

Despite the withdrawal of some troops, it is quite obvious that the Soviet Union is settling down for a long stay in Afghanistan.

The tour of duty for Soviet troops in Afghanistan has been increased to two years. In addition, dependents of Soviet military personnel are being

Continued on page 78

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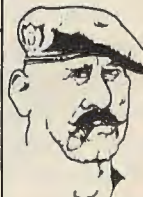
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EDITORIAL

CARTER & DEMOGOGUERY

by George F. Will

PRESIDENT Carter says Ronald Reagan's campaign will feature "demagoguery."

Hmmmmmmmm. That's an interesting warning from the man who:

Early in 1977, said: Hey, let's mail everybody some money — a \$50 tax rebate.

Attacked entire classes of Americans, including doctors and lawyers.

Pandered to other public prejudices with repeated attacks on another safe target, oil companies.

Undermined respect for, and compliance with, the tax system by ridiculing it as "a disgrace to the human race."

Further lowered the discussion of complicated tax matters by displaying, for the merriment of yahoos, a stack of volumes containing the tax code, as though the size of the volumes is self-evident proof of something.

Lowered the tone still further by harping on the "three martini lunch."

Blamed most of America's inflation on wicked foreigners — OPEC — in spite of the fact that 11 of the 13 industrial nations that are more dependent on OPEC than America have lower inflation rates than America has.

Announced, as the economy tumbled into a free-fall, that his economic policies "suit me fine."

Shattered the record for peacetime tax increases, proposed a budget calling for the federal government to command the highest percentage of GNP since 1944, a year of total war mobilization — and then denounced as "ideological nonsense" Reagan's idea that taxes should be cut.

Said, three months ago, shortly before even his administration began to admit that the deficit will be at least \$20 billion, that: "I don't have any doubt that we will have a balanced budget in 1981."

Delivered, 11 months ago, one of the worst speeches in the history of speeches, the "malaise" sermon, in which he told the nation: I'm un-

popular, so you're sick.

Followed that performance with yet another flamboyant visit to the porch of "average Americans."

Described SALT II, which not even a Democratic-controlled Senate would ratify, as "a major achievement of my administration."

Went on television to make a histrionic declaration that the presence of Soviet combat troops in Cuba is "unacceptable."

Went on television to say that, come to think about it, the presence is acceptable.

Solemnly said that the invasion of Afghanistan was the gravest threat to peace since the Second World War — and then cut the defense budget.

Deliberately supported a grossly anti-Israel U.N. resolution, and then, when surprised by the public's revulsion, had his secretary of state say, in effect: Oops! It was all a misunderstanding.

Said: "If I ever lie to you, don't vote for me."

Said, when it suited his political situation: "I want the world to know that I am not going to resume business-as-usual as a partisan campaigner out on the campaign trail until our hostages are back here — free and at home."

Bashed the Ayatollah with the national Christmas tree.

Went on television as the polls were opening in the Wisconsin primary, to announce, falsely, a breakthrough in the hostage crisis.

Said, months after two U.S. servicemen were killed defending the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan: "We've not had any loss of life during this administration because of people being sent into combat."

Sprinted to Texas, on the eve of the Texas primary, to use a visit with the casualties of the rescue mission as a photo opportunity.

Baptized the rescue calamity "an incomplete success."

Having done his best to hold down military pay, used the men of the USS *Nimitz*, returning from an unreasonably long voyage, as props in a skit in which he said, in effect: Come to think about it, I'm for the pay increase I opposed until last week.

Enough, already.

Carter says Reagan is a demagogue. But then, Carter called Hubert Humphrey a "loser," LBJ a liar, and Edward Kennedy a "demagogue" whose campaigning is "very dangerous to our country," its principles, and peace. When Carter, directed by his inner compass to the low road, issues warnings about "demagoguery," he is indulging, characteristically, in that against which he pretends to be warning.

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STEELE ON KNIVES

Continued from page 14

bay until he can draw his balisong; then, once out of the pocket, the closed balisong can be used as a yawara stick against available targets.

Next, the opponent can be confused or distracted by spitting in his face or kicking him in the shins (high kicks are never used against a proficient knife fighter). Then the latch on the balisong can be flicked with the little finger; it can be opened against the opponent's face, holding onto one handle. If possible, complete opening should be accomplished behind the hip so that the opponent cannot cut or strike it out of the hand. From this position, conventional escrima short or long-range attacks can be directed against the opponent. Obviously, this is an all "go," no "show," style of martial arts; it is not meant for those who think of the Oriental arts as just good exercise or philosophical navel-gazing.

There are at least a half-dozen traditional Filipino opening styles for the balisong. All of these styles involve small circular turns and flips of the fingers. Once mastered these techniques can be done quickly with either hand.

The balisong is a fine design, but the little shops in the Philippines cannot pro-

duce a first-rate product. This problem has been solved by Lester DeAsis of Bali-Song Inc., Dept. SOF, 3039 Roswell St., Los Angeles, CA 90065. First, DeAsis determined that California law did not, in fact, forbid the manufacture or wearing in plain view of the balisong (contrary to what many police officers have been led to believe). He designed a clip-point blade with integral guard and steep hollow grind. Next he designed a set of matched brass handles with micarta inserts.

The tolerances were kept precise by special machines so that the action would not just "walk and talk" but would "dance and fly." The tang pin bearing against the handles was beefed up beyond anything seen on Philippine versions. Overall weight and strength took them out of the Oriental oddity class and put them alongside any current folding hunters.

Blades on all Bali-Song knives are made of the finest 154CM stainless. Wood, canvas, linen and paper micarta have all been used in handle inserts. A stainless handle has been developed, which is lighter but stronger and easier to keep clean than brass. Lately, an all-stainless, no-insert, skeletonized handle has been added to the line. This handle is a little chunkier than the others, but ultimately can be produced more cheaply, making the knife more affordable.

The opening latch has been placed on

the opposite side from the traditional Filipino knife. This makes the knife easier to open quickly without binding. The knife can also be ordered without a latch, making it even faster to open. If the knife is carried in the special basket-stamped sheath or by itself in a pocket, the lack of a latch is not likely to present a problem. Martial arts instructors, like Danny Inosanto, also prefer the latchless model because it opens more quickly, without the possibility of binding should a latch slip down between the handles.

Bali-Song is now experimenting with several exotic blade shapes. A bowie-blade is a standard option. This blade is produced under subcontract by custom knifemaker Jody Samson. Samson has also developed several new blades: a dagger, a drop point and a straight-clip point among them. The straight-clip point is Samson's "Wee Hawk" boot-knife blade adapted to the Bali-Song handle. So far, only the bowie blade is listed in the company catalog, but the potential buyer can write for details on how to special order the other blades.

To be continued.



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“OPERATION SMOKESHELL” SMOKES OUT SWAPO

South African Raid into Angola

Story and Photos by Al J. Venter



Troops take last smokebreak before closing hatches and launching final attack in Ratel 20 Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs). IFVs include 20mm cannon (M693) and mounts for two 7.62mm machine guns.

SOUTH African forces have followed Sup counterinsurgency operations in the northern sector of South West Africa with another major strike into Angola.

In a sortie code-named "Operation Smokeshell," a succession of SWAPO bases were taken out and the body count of SWAPO terts killed exceeded 200; it is believed that since these insurgents remove their dead when possible, the actual tally was much higher — probably double the figure given.

Because the South Africans traveled in armored vehicles, they had a disproportionately low number of casualties — 16 men killed, most still in their teens, and a minimum number of wounded.

It Smacked of *Apocalypse Now*

Early reports of the strike, which took place during the first week of June, indicated that fighting was heavy; in some cases involving retaliatory fire at point-blank range and hand-to-hand combat as row after row of trenches and underground positions were overrun. There was heavy use of anti-armor weapons — mostly RPG-7s — by the Soviet-backed defenders.

Chopper pilots who took their bulky Puma helicopters in on medevac liftouts said afterwards that it was an experience straight out of *Apocalypse Now*.

Commented one of them: "We had strings of tracer from a succession of 14.5s and 12.7s coming at us most of the time. It was hot!"

Another ground observer said: "The only difference between this strike and the film was that the pilots weren't wearing black cavalry stetsons and the choppers didn't have "Death From Above" painted on the fuselage. The fire fight would have looked great on film, and it was for real."

Tactically viewed, the South African strike was the biggest onslaught of its kind in two years. "If it had been SWAPO doing the damage," said Willem Steenkamp, an army ground observer, "wiping out the bases *would have* been roughly equivalent to the terts overrunning Windhoek (the SWA capital) and Grootfontein (the



Bodies of dead SWAPO terts — like this one — were scattered about the area once SA troops moved in.

country's biggest military base). But it would be a mistake to believe that it means an end to the slaughter of white farmers, or the removal of terr presence from the northern reaches of the territory."

A veteran of South Africa's "Operation Savannah" strike into Angola during 1975, when South African forces banged at the gates of Luanda more than 1,000 kilometers to the north, and the subsequent Cassinga raid in which over 1,000 SWAPO terts were killed, Steenkamp's comments come from experience.

One thing is certain. The strike was enough to disrupt SWAPO activities for several months. It was also a direct blow to the prestige of semi-illiterate SWAPO leader, Sam Njoma, who recently swore in the United Nations to "stiffen the war and drive the whites into the sea."

In retrospect, the insurgents clearly learned much from the Cassinga onslaught (which included about 80 Cuban fatalities). There, SWAPO's external military arm concentrated everything into one area, so it was relatively easy to knock out the entire complex with the help of airborne and motorized ground support.

Their new headquarters, lying less than 100 kilometers north of the Ovambo border, was spread out over a huge area measuring roughly 65 square kilometers. Everything was dispersed and situated underground, with heavy emphasis on camouflage, making airstrikes impossible. Even counter-tracking discipline was thorough, with footpaths disguised and bivouacs overgrown with plants.

When the attack took place, several factors indicated that it was entirely unexpected. Food had been served for the midday meal and many SWAPO cadres were away from their posts.

More important, judging by defending-gun placement, the movement — which receives most of its aid from Russia, Cuba and East Germany — had planned for this sort of eventuality on a north-south axis.

Honey-Badger Plays Key Role

Instead, the South Africans surged from the south, then veered in on the flanks on an east-west tangent. This deployment disrupted previous SWAPO calculations.

At the vanguard of most units was South Africa's latest addition to their armory, the Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) *Ratel* (Afrikaans for the tough little African honey-badger). These vehicles were thoroughly blooded in action and performed superbly under fire, covering much of the distance in difficult open bush country that would have defied most four-wheel-drive APCs. One needs to have visited this vast arid region to fully understand the implications.

With 20mm cannons mounted on the

turrets and backed by two .30-caliber machine guns — one fore and one aft — the *Ratels* delivered debilitating support fire until able to disgorge their complements of infantrymen on target. Regarded by some as "APCs with teeth," they are

viewed as this war's new form of offensive armor.

Terr countertactics were obviously well-planned. Several played possum as the *Ratels* passed, then let rip with RPG rockets.



One vehicle commander spotted a dead insurgent alongside the track he was following. As Steenkamp explained it: "His pose was traditional 'clutch-and-crumple dead,' with the RPG-7 rocket launcher lying across his chest." The vehi-

cle was moving past when the rear gunner suddenly caught the terr in his sight, moving onto his knees, the RPG-7 raised into firing position. Three bullets into the terr's chest silenced his attack.

Undoubtedly, another batch of *Ho-*

noris Crux medals will be handed out following this attack; many episodes of individual bravery remain confidential, as details might disclose tactics.

Foiled Again

Soviet reports of the South African raid, carried in *Tass*, mentioned "a medical tent" having been hit, with "two female SWAPO refugees killed in the onslaught." *Tass* might like to explain the bulldozers — of Soviet origin — spotted by a South African reconnaissance flight a couple of days later, burying the dead in a succession of mass graves. And isn't it interesting that all foreign military-aid personnel were conspicuously absent from the attack area.

SWAPO must now seek a different kind of site and shelter for its field headquarters. The inevitable attack and destruction of *that* facility will also, no doubt, be reported in *SOF* in due course.

Further Details

ACCORDING to the *South African Digest*, Operation Smokeshell was the second phase in an operation carried out successfully by South African and SWA/Namibian forces and supported by the South African Air Force. In the first strike on June 13, the South African forces succeeded in wiping out SWAPO's operational headquarters. All forces have now been withdrawn from Angola, according to a SA military spokesman.

The *SA Digest* places the SWAPO terrorist death toll from the second strike at over 300 and the tonnage of Soviet and Eastern-bloc military equipment captured at over 250 — excluding vehicles. This equipment had been stockpiled in underground bunkers of over 30 military storage depots, awaiting deployment by the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) — SWAPO's military arm — against South West Africa/Namibia.

In spite of Pretoria's commitment to a democratic settlement in SWA, SWAPO's intention to win by force of arms continues in violent evidence — 900 acts of violence last year, double the count from the previous year, leave little room for doubt as to their dedication to this plan. And the sophistication of the base destroyed in Operation Smokeshell leaves a lot of room for concern.

For the sake of the Free World, let's hope South Africa can continue to hold the line against this Soviet-backed terrorist threat, and find its way to a fair verdict at the polls.



ABOVE: Puma helicopters swoop in on medevac liftouts; flak and retaliatory fire were heavy as Operation Smokeshell entered successive phases. Infantry Fighting Vehicles seen here are SA-manufactured Ratel 20s with 20mm cannon.

LEFT: SA Air Force spotter plane keeps an eye on strike force in Ratel 20 as it moves in.

RIGHT: Large quantities of SWAPO weapons and ammunition were recovered and a lot more destroyed before the SA forces pulled out. Seen here are B-40 rockets, a RPG-7 launcher, belted ammo, SWAPO "782" gear and magazines for Soviet AKs.



YOU FOUGHT: NOW VOTE

SOF Commentary

by Jim Graves &
John Metzger

YOU fought for it — you should take advantage of it.

While some turned away from the obligation to serve their country in the 1960s, you probably accepted the responsibility and did the proper thing. Some went to Canada, some hid here at home, but you went to Vietnam. Right or wrong, there was an obligation to serve and we know most SOFers did. There is just as much of an obligation to vote.

What makes America unlike most other nations is that every four years Americans have a free and secret ballot that enables them to play a role in deciding the direction their country will take in the immediate future.

In the beginning, only established Caucasian property owners had the vote, but since then the number of persons eligible to vote has expanded to the point where today 74% of the people living in America have the right to cast a ballot.

But only approximately 30% of those people do. Why?

The most popular excuse is that one vote won't make any difference — it will be rendered meaningless by an avalanche of ballots. Our history has known "avalanche" years, but there were also years when America's future was determined by a relative handful of voters.

Statistically, the "tightest" election year in history was 1880. Had Democrat Winfield Scott Hancock managed to sway just one tenth of one percent of the total voters, he would have defeated Republican James A. Garfield.

In 1884, James G. Blaine lost the election to Grover Cleveland. The race was a stalemate everywhere except New York. Had Blaine managed to garner 575 additional popular votes in that state he would have won New York's electoral votes and the presidency.

That election should serve as a particularly poignant example to today's **veterans**. Cleveland, a draft dodger who hired a substitute to fight for him in the Civil War — you could do that in those days — vetoed the pension bill for Civil War veterans during his term in office.

Had one percent of the Americans voted differently, they could also have changed the outcomes of the 1828, 1840 and 1916 elections.

Too far back to be relevant? In our last presidential election, Democrat Jimmy Carter defeated Republican Gerald Ford by 297 electoral votes to 241. In the

popular vote count (only electoral votes count toward determining the national winner) Carter's margin was a slim two percent — 51 percent to 49 percent. In seven states won by Carter, his edge was less than one percent of the popular vote.

Another reason for ducking our obligation to vote is the polls. In the coming month Americans will be inundated with polls designed to tell us, within a point or so — or so they say — who the winner will be in November. And Americans listen.

But think back to that night in 1948 when a smiling Harry S. Truman brandished a Chicago newspaper that stated Thomas Dewey had won.

And if Jimmy Carter had listened to the pollsters when he started rising from obscurity, he would still be there.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence: "...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it."

The Americans of Jefferson's time laid their lives on the line to abolish a government they did not want. We may not have reached that point yet, but if enough Americans continue to ignore their responsibility to register and vote, we may find ourselves in a similar situation.

In the coming presidential election, in which there appear to be three strong candidates, your vote could be pivotal.

In theory, our future will be determined by the will of the majority. But the fine print reads that it will be decided by the majority of the minority which takes the time to register and vote.

If you are satisfied to sit at home, go to work, buy food, have kids and do absolutely nothing else, then maybe you needn't vote.

But we, as Americans, have an obligation to inform ourselves and formulate intelligent opinions about the direction our communities and our nation should take.

You know there are things in America worth fighting for. Police officers fight to protect our peace and our rights. Our military men fight to protect us from the "wolves" of the world.

But you can also serve your country by voting your convictions. By voting you can register your opinions about inflation, pollution, communism and crime.

Also remember that because you kept quiet, those who ducked their obligations in the 1960s have the vote too.

If you don't vote, the guys who went to Canada will.

And they won't vote like you.

You can start by finding your home state on the voter registration box on this

page. Most states require you to be registered by a specific date, e.g. 10 days prior to election day. The chart will give you the deadline for your home state. So get out and register. Then on Tuesday, 4 November, 1980 cast a vote you can live with.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 4, 1980

State	Registration Deadline (No. of days before election)
Alabama	10
Alaska	30
Arizona	50
Arkansas	20
California	29
Colorado	32
Connecticut	21 (New voters may register the day before elections)
Delaware	3rd Saturday in Oct.
Florida	30
Georgia	30
Hawaii	30
Idaho	With precinct registrar, 10 days; with county clerk, 5 days
Illinois	28 (With precinct registrar, 35 days)
Indiana	29 (45 days if before deputy)
Iowa	10
Kansas	20
Kentucky	30
Louisiana	30
Maine	Up to and on election day
Maryland	29
Massachusetts	28
Michigan	30
Minnesota	20 (Or register at polls with identification)
Mississippi	30
Missouri	28
Montana	30
Nebraska	Second Friday before elections
Nevada	30
New Hampshire	10
New Jersey	29
New Mexico	42
New York	30
North Carolina	21 business days
North Dakota	No registration
Ohio	30
Oklahoma	10
Oregon	Anytime
Pennsylvania	30
Rhode Island	30
South Carolina	30
South Dakota	15
Tennessee	30
Texas	30
Utah	10
Vermont	17
Virginia	31
Washington	30
West Virginia	29
Wisconsin	Second Wednesday before election, or at polls with I.D.
Wyoming	30
Dist. of Col.	30
Puerto Rico	120
Virgin Islands	45



FULL AUTO

Continued from page 10

Accessories for the M-71 include the standard FAZ bayonet, grenade launcher, blank-firing adapter and cleaning kit.

The Yugoslavs are quite proud of their FAZ weapon family. According to their manual: "It can be said that the assault rifles FAZ are belonging to the several outstanding assault rifles in existence today. The simple, effective design of both the weapon and large capacity magazine minimizes possible malfunction. Military personnel with limited education and training can easily be taught to use the FAZ assault rifles to achieve maximum effectiveness. Training, operation, and field stripping are easy and simple thanks of sophisticated design." [sic]

The Yugoslav training manual does not indicate the intended use of this unusual weapon, but it is easy to surmise possible applications. Warsaw Pact long-range penetration groups, operating deep in NATO rear areas, would find their logistics simplified if they could fire captured NATO ammunition in their rifles. And there are many countries throughout the world where a communist-supplied terrorist would find NATO ammunition easier to acquire than the Soviet 7.62x39mm cartridge.

No M-71s were ever captured in Rhodesia. The manual is undoubtedly authentic, and while the existence of the M-71 seems to be verified by it, many questions remain to be answered. How many were made, and for what purpose? Have any ever been issued and, if so, to whom? It seems unlikely that any of these weapons have seen much use, since they were completely unknown to Western small-arms experts. There is still a great deal to be learned about the M-71, but at least now we know the questions.

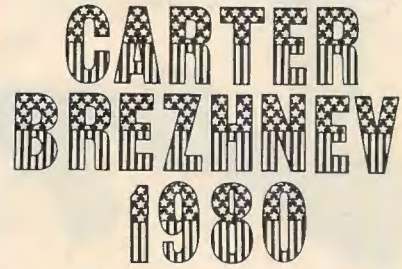


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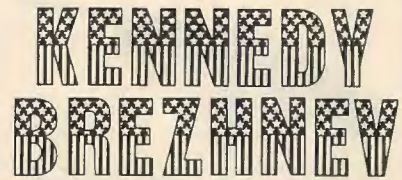


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- 10 Explorer "SURVIVAL"
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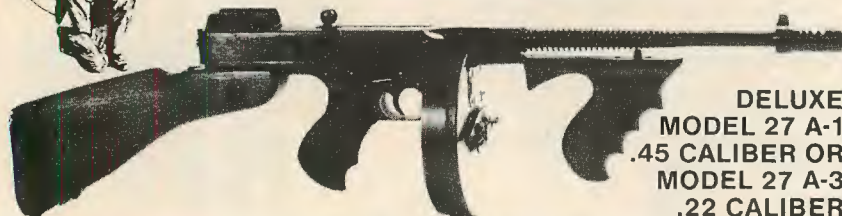
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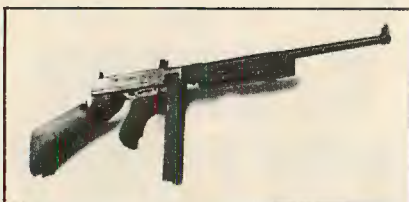
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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 19

wish to argue about whether up is down to a committee which doesn't care and whose opinions do not matter. (Except possibly for a ridiculous fee.)

I fear that I am unable to tell you how to get the attention of the "military-industrial complex." One man you can sell, but impressing the establishment is like eating soup with a fork.

I do not believe that the NRA is interested in this matter, but I am not close to the NRA and may be wrong.

We can truly deliver a haymaker on the subject of handgun efficiency. I do not mean just me, but the whole shooting fraternity. We do have the answers, but we are inhibited by the "O Lord, not again!" syndrome.

Set up a serious target and we will total it.

This month Ken Hackathorn takes on the FBI when he argues that point shooting is inherently less successful than his own two-handed eye-level style. We hope that his cogent argument may win a few converts — and save lives.

HIP shooting is the general term applied to firing a handgun from a one-hand belt-level firing position. Some prefer to call it point shooting, others instinct shooting. Neither of these terms is totally accurate, but for the sake of argument, we shall call it point shooting. Since sights are not used in this firing technique, many shooters seem to believe that such pistol shooting is the result of an almost magical skill. The stories of hip shooting have been with us since 19th-century fiction writers first introduced the American public to a diet of dime novels about Wild West gunfighters.

In truth, such shooting was never used and was considered useless by that era's real gunmen. But in the 1930s, the FBI began to train its agents in practical pistol-shooting techniques. They were quick to employ the one-hand hip-level shooting stance combined with a low body crouch — later named the "gunman's crouch." Point shooting with the service revolver became standard procedure. The Bureau has not modified its firearms training in all these years and is quick to mention this as testimony to its success.

Since most Free World and U.S. police agencies have been influenced by the FBI, many teach or use some form of the point-shooting technique. Unfortunately, many of those that should know better fail to realize there is a better way. Members of the old school will argue that two hands are slower, and in a fight you will not have time to use your sights. They also argue

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IN DEFENSE OF THE DRAFT

by Bob Poos

IN establishing military priorities, U.S. defense planners and budgeters must always reckon with three scenarios.

A. All-out nuclear war, holocaust, Armageddon — or whatever one wishes to call it.

B. A Soviet-led Warsaw Pact blitzkrieg of Western Europe.

C. Neither of the above.

SCENARIO A comes under the concept of strategic planning — ICBMs, MIRVs, big bombers with nuclear capacity, cruise missiles, nuclear submarines and the like. This is probably the least likely of the three to occur, for a number of reasons, but nevertheless, it is one that can be ignored or cut back only at the expense of national security.

Some of the reasons that this scenario is the most unlikely are, first, mutual destruction: the U.S. no longer enjoys nuclear monopoly — as it did in the Korean war and for a few years before — nor even the vast nuclear superiority that it did until about 1964. Rather, although America has approximate military parity with the Soviet Union, many strategists believe that, even granting the Russians a first-strike sneak attack, the U.S. would still possess adequate response to lay waste not only to the Soviet Union, but to a large share of Eastern Europe as well. Thus, no one emerges from this conflict a winner — only the inheritor of vast amounts of seared, poisoned wasteland, water and atmosphere.

SCENARIO B is more of a tactical matter than a strategic one — though it could develop into the latter.

There is little doubt that the communists could “win” such a short-term, high-intensity conflict through sheer superiority in force of arms.

NATO can field only 975,000 troops — 300,000 of them Americans — against the Warsaw Pact’s 1,140,000 men. Against 20,000 communist tanks, the West can throw only 7,000 — and Soviet armor in Europe at present is generally superior to that of the Allies. Similar disparities are prevalent in other arms of conventional warfare, such as artillery and armored fighting vehicles.

But many U.S. planners think this option is only slightly more likely to be exercised by the Soviets than is a strategic nuclear war. That is because there are a number of deterrents that would, or should, make the Soviets think twice or three times before launching such an adventure.

One is simple attrition. Warsaw Pact forces might achieve their geographical objectives, but it would be at a dreadful cost in both blood and treasure. The West may have inferior conventional forces, but it still has enough to bring about a

bloodbath. It is an axiom of warfare that attacking forces always pay a far higher price in casualties than do the defenders. Those American forces in Europe — six of the U.S. Army’s 16 infantry and mechanized divisions — get top priority in manpower and equipment allocations from the Department of Defense. And the U.S.’ strongest ally, West Germany, fields a stronger, better disciplined and equipped ground force than any Warsaw Pact nation except the Soviet Union.

There is also the possibility that the U.S.-led West might turn in desperation to tactical nuclear warfare. This could result in a Soviet response in kind, with an ultimate escalation to strategic nuclear conflict — back to scenario A.

There are other non-military aspects that make scenario B only a little more likely than A. What the Russians and their satellites would gain in such a “victory” would be a devastated Western Europe, its economy in ruins and its industrial base shattered. Aggressive nations do not fight wars these days for the simple fun and glory of it. They fight them for economic self-preservation.

The communists would be confronted with the task of restoring Western Europe to an economically profitable level like the U.S. had to do in Germany and Japan after World War II. The Soviet Union has enough problems maintaining a stable economy at home without undertaking a massive rebuilding of a conquered Europe.

Finally, the Russians would be confronted with garrisoning and policing hostile, occupied territories — something with which they are not entirely unfamiliar — i.e. Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

So much for possibilities A and B. The important thing priority-makers should remember about them is that existing deterrents should not be permitted to deteriorate any further than they have thus far. That could be disastrous and invite trouble.

THAT brings up scenario C — neither of the above. What is C? Well, one splendid example of it is the first U.S. military operation taken since the Mayaguez incident at the end of the Vietnam war. In case you don’t remember, it was the futile effort to rescue 52 American citizens being held hostage by fanatical, irrational Iranian militants.

In other words, scenario C is limited warfare of perhaps unorthodox means but nonetheless with conventional forces. Other missions might include protecting U.S. or friendly interests in the Middle East or in the Western Hemisphere.

This is the priority to which the administration of President Jimmy Carter, and to a lesser extent his two immediate predecessors, have paid the least heed.

No one but those with the highest military security clearance know for certain whether or not helicopter malfunctions, one of the chief reasons for failure of the raid, were due to inadequate maintenance by undertrained air crews. But in light of other serious and similar problems plaguing the Navy — and Army — it would seem a strong possibility that this had something to do with it.

EVERY branch of the armed services is suffering a critical exodus of the people it can least afford to lose — trained technicians or specialists and senior noncommissioned officers in the combat arms — the very spine of any modern military force.

There are several reasons for this, high among them being inadequate financial rewards. Marine Corps Commandant Robert Barrow, for example, recently issued a Corps-wide document explaining how personnel could qualify for food stamps.

Another reason is the inferior quality of many recruits coming into the military forces and the inadequate time and equipment provided for their training. In order to meet enlistment quotas, all services, but particularly the Army, are accepting ever larger numbers of high-school dropouts and those in lower mental categories, including Category 4s, the lowest intelligence level acceptable to the military.

Enlistment quotas. Low pay for senior NCOs and specialists, including pilots and doctors. Inadequate training, insufficient supplies of general-purpose conventional military equipment, weapons and materiel. These and other problems confronting today's military forces that would have to deal with category-C situations are all direct results of the worst affliction ever imposed upon the American military establishment. It is not one that Jimmy Carter and his Democratic-controlled Congress initiated, but it is certainly one they exacerbated.

THE problem is the All Volunteer Military Force concept, or All-Vol as it has become familiarly, if not affectionately, known.

Back in 1972, the leaders of this nation decided, in their infinite wisdom, that the nation's youth *should* not be faced with the possibility — the possibility, mind you, not the probability — of being required to serve their country. So the All-Vol sprang up like some heretofore unknown, unseen monster from the deep.

It was actually a socio-economic scheme aimed at resolving several youth-related problems, only one of them being the elimination of military conscription. Other benefits that All-Vol creators envisioned included an avenue of upper mobility for the nation's deprived youth and minorities and a

highly motivated force of enlistees rather than reluctant conscripts.

Early on, however, the plan had its doubters. Among the drawbacks suggested by some was expense: in order to compete with the civilian job market, the military would price itself out of existence attracting recruits. Others held that such a force would indeed lure the poor, underprivileged, lesser-educated and minorities. So much so, they said, that the nation's armed forces, particularly the combat arms, would reflect an imbalance when compared to the rest of U.S. society.

These predictions have come true.

Take pay, for example. When the All-Vol concept was launched, the armed forces were indeed put on a parity with other opportunities in the job market. Everyone from privates and seamen to higher-ranking officers received enormous pay raises. But as the military budget began reflecting a slice of as much as 60 percent devoted to manpower alone, appropriations for pay and benefits began slipping, and now the point has been reached where it is estimated that an initial outlay of some \$5 billion would be required to halt the "brain drain" that is threatening to gut U.S. military efficiency. Congress recently passed a \$52.8 billion defense-spending bill — \$5.9 billion more than Carter sought — and only \$1 billion of it is allocated to pay and benefits.

BUT money is not the only solution. More importantly, the money should be spent where it does the most good — upon people who have gained skills, expertise and training to a degree that they realize a fair recompense, yet still earn their pay. Just as one does not overpay an apprentice carpenter, plumber, electrician — or medical intern — it is foolish to overpay an apprentice soldier or sailor.

Furthermore, there are certain intangibles that go into the making of a dedicated military man or woman. Everyone who has ever served in the armed forces and found it to be a rewarding experience knows what these are, though some of them border on the inexplicable. They include a deep feeling of service to country — patriotism, if one wishes to call it that — and the deep bond of human relationships, especially among combat people, that does not seem to exist elsewhere.

Milton Friedman, the respected Nobel Prize-winning economist, is among those who suggest that the military should pay its people at civilian levels and compete on the free labor market.

Friedman is a great economist — one of the few real conservatives in that field — but he's not much of a soldier. Take one example that he doubtlessly did not consider. Probably the most dangerous job existing in the military is that of the point man in an infantry formation during wartime. This soldier or Marine does not need to be a Rhodes Scholar. Nor is much leadership responsibility expected of

him — yet. But he does need to be motivated and have exceptional sensory perceptions and highly developed survival instincts, either from birth or through rigorous training. How does one pay such a trooper? Certainly not by equating his job with hazardous civilian occupations like coal mining, sandhogging (work under high air pressure in tunnels) or with that of structural steel workers who work high above the ground. Men in those professions can earn from \$20,000 to \$40,000 a year. Anyone for paying a point man that?

Another example of how the All-Vol concept is crippling our military forces' ability to respond to scenario-C situations was President Carter's recent decision to establish a credible naval presence in the Indian Ocean. The U.S. 7th Fleet, charged with this task, had neither the ships nor the trained personnel to shift to that area, so it had to "borrow" from fleets in the Caribbean and Mediterranean, reducing their combat efficiency by about 10 percent each.

As Admiral Thomas Hayward, Chief of Naval Operations, recently told Congress: "We are trying to meet a three-ocean commitment with a one-and-a-half ocean Navy."

Although the Navy has probably suffered the most from the All-Vol concept — it is short 21,000 experienced petty officers, and the 7th Fleet, which during the Vietnam War boasted 80-90 combat vessels, now has only 58 — the Army too has serious problems.

TAKE the 4th Mechanized Division stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. It is considered one of the most highly motivated and best trained of all the non-elite (82nd Airborne and Marine divisions) around. But many of the 4th's MIAI tanks are driven by two-man crews rather than the four specified in the operational manual. Some units are known to be operating with only 70 percent of their assigned manpower — when a unit suffers 30-percent casualties in combat, it is considered unfit for further active service until brought up to strength and retrained.

Should one brigade of the 4th, having only 70 percent to start with, suddenly be required for deployment to combat, it would probably have to so seriously cannibalize the other two brigades as to make them unfit for active service.

Another spectre directly attributable to the All-Vol concept is the woeful shortage in reserve forces, particularly those of the Army, the National Guard, the Organized Reserve which trains on weekends and two-week-long exercises a year and the so-called Ready Reserve: personnel who do not train but are serving out the remainder of their military commitment.

During wartime, the reserves are supposed to account for 33 percent of the Army's armored, mechanized and infantry divisions, 45 percent of its helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft units, 57 percent of its elite Special Forces groups, 60 percent of

its medical teams and 75 percent of its unattached combat brigades. But the Army Reserves, by the most optimistic count, are about 190,000 men short of authorization.

WHY? The All-Vol concept is why. Before it appeared on the scene, all the reserve forces — Air Force, Navy and Marine, as well as Army — were packed to the bursting point. Recruiters had to turn men away. The reason was that young men saw the Reserves as a viable alternative to being drafted or fleeing to Canada, Sweden or elsewhere to escape the draft.

If all this seems to be leading up to a call for reinstatement of the draft, that, of course, is exactly what it is. Every serious student of the military knows by now that a draft of some kind is an absolute necessity if the United States of America is to maintain a large peacetime military force — and thus remain a No. 1 world power.

The All-Volunteer concept may have been a valid experiment, albeit one never undertaken by any other military power in history, and one not considered by even second-rate European powers today.

In Europe, only Great Britain and Ireland depend on volunteer forces, and the former has only 316,000 men and women under arms as opposed to the U.S.' 1,032,000. And the British service is aimed at attracting only those who are interested in being professionals — enlistment is for 12 years.

Switzerland, one of the great democracies of all time, simply conscripts every able-bodied male at age 18 and requires him to remain in the regularly trained militia until he is considered too old for active service. Those who balk at military service are jailed.

The Soviet Union requires all 18-year-old males to report for induction, and only those supporting parents unable to work or full-time university students are considered exempt. The latter will have to serve upon graduation.

NOBLE experiments have a way of failing in the U.S. Prohibition was one. Eight years of trying to make an All-Vol military service work has proven to be another.

So far, the only effort made by Jimmy Carter and his Democratic Congress to insure that this country enjoys even a modicum of security should a major military crunch occur has been a limpid move requiring 19- and 20-year-old men to register for a *possible* draft. There is nothing wrong with that, but it does not tackle the problem immediately at hand — our inability to deal with those *limited* military responses outlined as scenario C.

The U.S. needs some kind of a draft *now* to correct the malaise affecting its armed forces.

It needs a draft because:

First, conscription would actually save military manpower expenditures by ensuring that the truly

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Photos by Galen L. Geer
and Paul James

Through shot-out window of Soviet APC a camel can be seen picking its way past the rubble of a once-thriving Afghan village before Russian air pounded it.

by Galen L. Geer

PRAYERS REPLACE PUSHUPS

Mujahideen Organization (or lack of it)

THE countryside is littered with the charred remains of Soviet trucks, armored cars and T-62s – silent tributes to the courage and determination of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. As Paul James and I walked through the village of Seram in Afghanistan's Paktia Province, we tried to envision the year-long struggle to clear out the Reds, culminating in the bitter fighting against Soviet troops and a major victory for the Mujahideen last March.

"Bloody-good ambush they pulled here," James said, then kicked at a piece of rubber in the road, "and, when you stop to think about how they did it with only a few modern weapons, you must realize that if the West would give the Afghans just a few modern weapons they could kick Ivan's ass!"

I nodded my head in agreement. After shooting a few pictures of the village, I hurried to catch our group walking along the road to Gardez.

I was on assignment for *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine. One of the articles the editors and Publisher Robert K. Brown wanted was an article detailing the Mujahideen's organization and operations. Hopefully, it would provide some insight into how these outgunned freedom fighters are able to hold the Soviet Union at bay with a few captured RPG-7s and other mismatched weapons.

I had spent the previous two weeks in the Tribal Trust Lands of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province. Before going into Afghanistan, I put together a large file on the political organization of the Islamic fronts in Peshawar. Now I was trying to put together a similar file on the organization inside Afghanistan.

James and I eventually penetrated some 60 miles into the Afghan mountains above Gardez. We covered more than 130 miles in our 11-day trip and managed to obtain most of the information and some samples of Soviet weapons which SOF had sent me over to find. Because of my unique assignment (SOF, September '80), I visited a number of the Mujahideen strongholds deep in the Afghan mountains. This gave me a good chance to study their organization and operations for SOF readers who are following the Afghan war's progress.

Religious and Military Organization

An often misleading, though factual, report is that the Mujahideen are not well organized. There is organization; however, the difficulty lies in understanding how it works. Most of us are accustomed to dealing with a more regimented military system. Because of the war's nature (see "Jihad In Afghanistan" and "Mujahideen," SOF, October '80), the countryside, the nation's history and Islam, the organization is different than we might expect. My analysis, while admittedly limited, should provide SOF readers some insight into a modern religious war. Also, the threat of more communist activity in the area could force us to work within these religious/tribal structures in anti-communist movements.

The Mujahideen's organizational structure begins with the "political party" or Islamic group. These are headed by a religious or spiritual leader. This man's

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Afghan rebels attempt to make use of as many weapons as possible. Here two Freedom Fighters carry WWII Soviet B-10 82mm recoilless gun around Paktia Province in hopes of finding ammunition for the outdated weapon.

following will be based, in a large part, on how many less powerful leaders he can draw into his fold, including their followers. In most cases, this leader is in Peshawar as an exile and not active in the fighting. Only a few of the top political leaders risk going into Afghanistan.

These leaders are not totally unlike Iran's madman, but with some important distinctions — the most important being their total hatred of communism and their pro-American stance despite lack of American support for the war they are fighting. Their leader will also have some military skills, although they may be more in tune with the 19th century than today. He serves as the group's religious, political and military leader and has the total support of the men (and their

families) who have joined his party.

One of these parties' common goals is to create an Islamic state when the Russians are kicked out. Each leader has different ideas about how this should be done, thus creating a major stumbling block to uniting the war effort. However, I found that each party or group is organized along similar lines in its office/political structure, military organization and operations in Afghanistan.

Each group operates in a specific geographic region, divided not by lines or provinces but by party support. A key to finding out what party is supported in any given area is to look on the walls of tea houses and inside homes. Whoever's picture is tacked up on the wall is the leader of the party that area supports.

Afghan commander demonstrating use of RPG-7 to his troops.



The party leader dictates all party decisions, based on advice received from lesser leaders both in Pakistan and Afghanistan, either in a group meeting or by messenger. He is a shadowy figure, seldom, if ever, interviewed by Western journalists. When he does allow an interview, he weighs the amount of press he is going to receive from it. Good press in Western countries is essential to the parties vying for power in Peshawar.

The political office in Peshawar is divided to serve two main functions: the war effort and the political effort. Because recruitment of new men for the ranks comes, in a large part, from refugee camps around Peshawar, the recruiting

effort is directly linked to the party's efforts to register refugees as they filter into Pakistan. Because the government of Pakistan will not help a family that is not registered with a political group, each party makes an effort to go through the camps and the Tribal Trust Lands to find new refugees and register them.

This serves a dual purpose: it increases the parties' size by having refugees come to them for aid, and it allows them to recruit new men for the fighting. If the recruits come from an area which supported another leader, the party gains new converts. When those men return to the fighting and announce to those Afghans left behind that they now support another

party, that party's sphere of influence is expanded. It is easy to see where the first infighting between groups starts.

Another military-operations mission of the Peshawar political office is to arrange for arms, ammunition, supplies and men to be ferried back and forth across the border. To keep track of this increasingly complex operation, without the equipment or communications of modern armies, requires a large staff of runners who are kept busy carrying messages back and forth. Still another part of their mission is to obtain funds, both inside and outside Afghanistan. Some missions are sent to other Third World countries to raise funds, while others make the rounds of Afghan refugees and even go into Afghanistan to raise money.

The political cadre, in addition to working on the war effort, arranges for press visits and takes the press on tours. (Press tours are generally safe. Most members of the media are taken into close-in border areas where there is little danger of bombings or raids by Ivan.) The whole operation is akin to Vietnam's five-o'clock follies. To get into Afghanistan without going on a "tour" takes days and sometimes weeks to set up.

Also, the political cadre is busy as hell trying to undermine the efforts of other groups while building itself up.

Actually, this does not interfere with the fighting in Afghanistan as much as most observers believe. Most Afghans don't give two hoots in hell about the Peshawar office and what it is up to. The Mujahideen are more interested in killing Ivan than fighting among themselves. They do admit, however, that unless the individual groups are able to resolve their squabbling within a few months, the country could be torn apart by civil war — a weakness which Ivan is doing his best to exploit. Throughout April and May, the various groups began running checks on the people joining them in important positions because they suspected the KGB of infiltration, and there were a number of rumors (never confirmed) of executions inside Afghanistan.

As soon as one makes the transition from dealing with the political groups in Pakistan to working with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan, he notices a change both in organization and operation. Most apparent is that, with a few exceptions (regarding the use of weapons in joint operations), Mujahideen do not run each other down to the media nor do they seem to bicker among themselves. Both James and I were convinced that most of the infighting, including the fire fights in the Tribal Trust Lands between groups, is mostly the work of political hotheads, with a little trouble stirred up by KGB infiltrators.

Active Mujahideen are organized into two main factions inside Afghanistan. The first consists of active fighters in more or less organized bands. These are usually loosely formed because they support a

In mountains above Zeroke, Afghan rebels are trained to operate various weapons they've captured from Afghan communist and Soviet forces. Here training cadre instructs rebels in use of captured 82mm mortar.



tribal or village leader who has given his support to another religious leader, who in turn has given his support to the party and its leader. Various Mujahideen may drift in and out of the group as they move in and out of battle areas; however, the core of the group remains much the same with hangers-on doing little of the actual fighting.

There is no division of the groups into companies, squads or any other regimented military structure. A village chief may bring in half-a-dozen men to a Mujahideen stronghold, or he may bring in 200. His position within the chain of command will more or less depend on how many men he has with him. In the decision-making process, however, including whether or not an attack will be made, he will have just as much of a voice as a man who brought in 200 men.

Another point which must be understood in working with the Mujahideen is that they are fighting a holy war. For that reason, how many guns a man may be able to contribute is not as important as the number of men who respect his religious teachings. A widely known, respected religious man may not have many guns to contribute, but more individual Mujahideen may respect him as a leader over and above their own village chief; therefore, his voice will carry more weight as the group plans an operation.

Support Personnel

Not all of the Mujahideen in a stronghold — or depot as they call it — may be active fighters. The Mujahideen have support units as do other military organizations. In their case, however, most of the men who are involved in support, transportation, supply or other noncombat activities, are either too old to keep up with the younger men as they roam the hills, recovering from wounds, or are youngsters being trained in the use of machine guns, mortars, anti-aircraft weapons, etc. Although most Afghan males can handle a rifle, today's more modern weapons are new to them.

On the trail, the duties of cooking, arranging for a place to spend the night and other chores are shared equally by all of the men — regardless of rank or position. Since there is no rank structure beyond "commander" of either a large or small group, everyone shares equally.

The only really privileged group of Mujahideen is the medical personnel. These men are, for the most part, medical students whose education was interrupted by the war. Most doctors have found they can contribute more to the war effort and refugee care by staying in Peshawar's hospitals. Because no medical supplies are to be found at even the best-equipped stronghold, Mujahideen medics can do little more than offer basic first aid to the wounded. Those who "might" survive the

eight-day trip back to Pakistan are sent out by truck and camel to Peshawar. Even there the severely wounded have little hope of surviving, because medical facilities in Pakistan are already stretched beyond their limits.

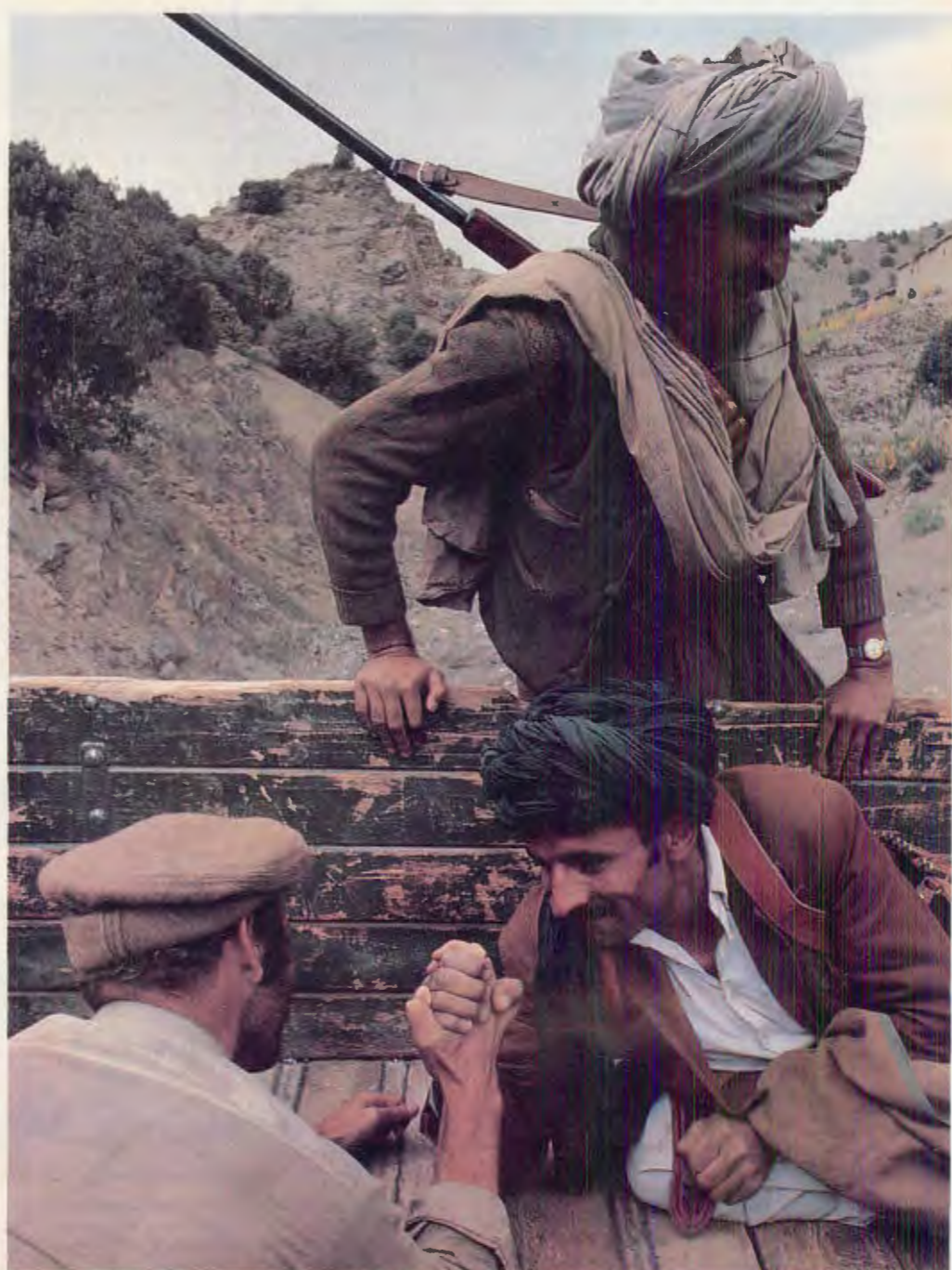
Although most of the Mujahideen strongholds are nestled in deep valleys where Ivan has problems getting his choppers and MiGs in close enough for an effective air attack, the Mujahideen have taken some steps to organize defense in the surrounding hills. However, they do not understand modern weapon deployment or how to organize any kind of in-depth defense. Because their organization is based on religion rather than military

structure, they have trouble planning defenses.

While James and I were with the Mujahideen we took the time to work on some of their defenses, and when we worked within their religious structure we found that they listened. We explained that one group should be responsible for defending this mountain, the next could cover this pass, etc. It seemed to work: one set of plans we drew up in the stronghold above Gardez was carted off in the middle of the night to a powwow of local leaders to be studied and put into use — we hope.

The entire war effort appears to be a "catch-as-catch-can" plan. Groups of

Arm wrestling: Afghan rebels enjoyed testing themselves against Western journalist. Author Galen Geer arm wrestling with Afghan rebel in back of Soviet truck as it bounced through Paktia Province.



Mujahideen roam the country engaging the Russians when they get the chance. Actually, these "patrols" are doing a lot of damage to the Russians by keeping them from freely using the roads. Except for major strongholds, there is no way Ivan can figure out when or where he is going to run into a group of Mujahideen — which may number from a handful of men to more than a hundred. Nor can Ivan safely count on the Afghans being outgunned. They could pop up with a half-dozen rounds for an RPG — or an equal number of machine guns might suddenly appear in a fire fight. It must be unnerving for Ivan, finding himself facing 10 or 12 Mujahideen at the start of a battle and thinking he is going to wipe them out quickly, to see 200 more drifting into the fight from the surrounding hills as the tempo picks up.

In battles, Ivan is dead before the first shot.

When the Mujahideen go after Ivan in a big way, with a well-planned battle, Ivan is dead before the first shot is fired. The group's leaders will meet and, from their outstanding network of spies and locals, get a complete picture of the forces they plan to attack, including how long it will take for enemy air support to arrive after the fight starts.

Another point is that the Mujahideen are not going to engage Ivan in a planned attack unless all the advantages belong to the Afghans. They do not have the ammunition or firepower to get locked into any kind of long-term fight and, in every battle of that type, they have been mauled. The fight to clear Paktia was not a big battle but a series of small fights in which

the Afghans were able to ambush convoys, villages, armor and columns of troops in well-planned attacks which did not leave an escape route. The communists were hopelessly outgunned and had no room to maneuver.

Tank Traps—Afghan Style

James and I found that the Mujahideen, lacking anti-armor weapons, had dug out the road in one area, so that when the fight started and armor moved up, the road fell away and the tanks tumbled into the river below. Crude, but effective.

Every attack the Mujahideen launch has a two-fold purpose: one, to kill communists; two, to capture equipment and supplies. This second phase is so important that a special group of Mujahideen sweeps into the battle area during the fight, picking up weapons, supplies, ammunition and anything else of value. Reports of truck drivers being shot with handguns, then yanked out of the cab and the trucks being driven off during an ambush are so common they have to be believed. If a truck gets shot up in a fight, the Mujahideen strip every part they can from it, including the engine block, then burn it! Tanks are also dismantled if they can't be driven off, and what the Mujahideen can't use is scattered along the hills so Ivan can't get any use out of it either.

In the early stages of the war against the Russians, the Mujahideen did not have enough anti-tank weapons to fight effectively. As soon as the *Jihad* (holy war) was declared, a good number of Mujahideen employed an effective, though costly, method of knocking out tanks. They poured gasoline over themselves and waited for Ivan to drive past in a tank.

Since the Russians seldom buttoned up their armor, the Mujahideen lit themselves with a match and jumped in, pulling the hatch closed behind them. In their minds it was a fair exchange: one Mujahideen — who became immortal — for a Soviet tank and crew. Since they have now captured a number of RPGs, this practice has fallen off, or, as James said: "They ran out of brave ones."

Can the Mujahideen Win?

The question still remains: "Can the Mujahideen win?" It is easier to say they have never really been defeated. Also, they have an unlimited source of manpower to fight with — the whole damn country! The harder the Soviets pound them, and the more women and children they kill, the more young men will come out of the refugee camps and mountains to fight. Since Soviet armor has already proved worthless in the mountains and Soviet air has a long way to go before it becomes effective, there is hope. There is even a good chance that the Afghans will be able to resolve their differences through the Loyal Jirga and organize an effective government in exile which the Western world will support and arm. If that comes to pass, the Soviet Union may actually be defeated on the Afghan battlefield.

In either case, the lessons learned in Afghanistan, and an understanding of what future "holy wars" in the area may be like, are essential to the West and those military types who may find themselves trying to teach a tribal leader how to shoot down a MiG-23 at some future date.

INVISIBLE ENEMY

X-Gas Details Revealed by Victims

HIS tea cup in front of him and flies swirling around his tent, Abdul Aziz, an Afghan refugee living in a refugee camp a few miles outside Peshawar, Pakistan, rattled on about the attack on his village a few months ago.

Through an interpreter who spoke Pushtan, Abdul explained how his friends and family had first been gassed, then captured and finally murdered by Khalq (pronounced "Hulk") troops led by Russian officers. When he finished, I sipped the last of the tea from my own cup and explained to the half-dozen men in the tent that I had to go. Then, thanking them



Leader: Mului Jalal Udi Den explained many Soviet operations and tactics to SOF and gave us information on location of Soviet 5.45mm rounds.

for their tea and the information, I excused myself. Abdul was another Afghan refugee in a long line of them who told the same story to SOF — with only slight variations.

According to refugees in the camps along Pakistan's frontier area, the Soviets are using a "knock-out" gas which causes unconsciousness for anywhere from a few minutes to several hours, during which time communist troops are able to move into an area unopposed and capture a whole village without firing a shot. The victims wake up looking down the muzzle of a Soviet weapon — if they are not murdered first.

Reports of this gas were particularly disturbing to me because of an incident nearly two years earlier. I was with the Second Infantry Division Public Affairs Office in Korea working as the editor of the *Indianhead*, the division's newspaper. Late one night in October 1978, Maj. Bruce Eaton, then public affairs officer for the division, called me into his office and related an incident that took place earlier that year — in June, when U.S.

and ROK forces first discovered what they believed was a new North Korean tunnel.

According to Eaton, a U.S. major in the operations section of the division was called into the DMZ to check the tunnel. (It was detected when a geyser of water and casing pipe from an exploratory bore hole blasted 30 feet into the air.)

"The major," Eaton said, "looked down into the bore hole and saw what he said was a muzzle of some kind about the size of the bore of a .50 caliber.

"There was a 'poof,' then the major," Eaton explained, "was knocked out. He woke up about 36 hours later in the 121st Medical Evacuation Hospital in Yongsan."

Eaton went on to explain that the gas appeared to be "some sort of new nerve gas which just knocks you out." He also said there did not appear to be any present defense against it because tests made on the residue from the major's uniform showed it penetrated our gas masks' combat filters.

Over the next few weeks, until I returned to the States in December, I tried to confirm the report. When I asked contacts in Eighth Army Headquarters about rumors of a special team of South Koreans who had been training to break into the new tunnel wearing scuba gear, I was told to "forget it." The only information I was able to put together was that the major from the division was unconscious when hospitalized. But no other explanation was offered.

SOF Seeks "X" Gas

Several months later, SOF made discreet inquiries into the "X" gas and was told the gas found in the tunnel and the gas that "might have hit some officer" was "methane." That story is not acceptable, since the tunnel was in granite, of which methane is not a natural byproduct. It seemed, however, that the story was doomed to die as no one would discuss it.

Then the Russians invaded Afghanistan. Stories of a strange gas began to filter out, but most of the media, it appeared, had no idea what they were dealing with. Besides, no one had ever heard of any previous knock-out gas except a handful of Army people and SOF. One of my first tasks in Peshawar was to try and track down witnesses to these gas attacks to validate our suspicions.

At each refugee camp throughout the area around Peshawar, refugees tell the same story. According to Abdul, a Soviet plane flew over his village and soon people began to pass out. A short time later, Khalq soldiers with Russian officers moved into the village and subdued the people. The same story was repeated by other refugees, including Ainnuall Ah, Abdul Rahman, Jaji Hartgul, Mohamad Waliz and several leaders of the Islami fronts, including the political agent for the Jamit-NOVEMBER/80

Islami Afghanistan, Mr. Aryobi, Sayed Hamed Gailani, head of the National Islamic Front and Mongal Hussein, ranking member of the Hezbi-Islami splinter group in Pakistan (the group's leader is in Afghanistan).

The same story is told, with few variations, of the gas' use. Aside from the "knock-out" gas, refugees describe a concentrated form of CS (tear gas) and a killing gas.

More information about the gas was found at the Khyber Hospital. Located near Peshawar's university town, it is a medical center for the area's 600,000 refugees. Dr. Rah In (see "Mysterious Wounds," SOF, September '80, p. 53), an Afghan refugee surgeon who was with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan for several months, says he has seen both CS and the knock-out gas employed.

CS, Nerve Gas and "Knock-Out" Gas

The same pattern for gas use was described at the hospital. A concentrated CS, a nerve agent which killed and a "knock-out" gas which left the victims unconscious for several hours and "sick" for hours, or even days, after was described. Although Rah In provided information on the gas' deployment in Afghanistan, which appeared to be by aircraft, rocket and "stick" (see "Soviet Fire

Sticks," SOF, September '80, p. 52), it was another doctor, Mahn Zuhr, who said, "Most people don't want to believe the stories about a 'knock-out' gas because they sound fantastic. But, believe us, we have had many patients who say they have been gassed."

Enough evidence has been put together from a variety of sources, and been provided to other media (CBS' 60-Minutes program in April) to prove that the Soviet Union does have a nerve gas which is designed only to knock out victims. This would fit the Soviet warfare pattern. The Soviet Union may feel world pressure and prefer to use something less powerful than a killing agent. Knock-out gas would be perfect for them. No one could say they were killing people with gas; however, they could still launch a gas attack, then move in without endangering their own troops.

Eyewitness accounts from Afghan refugees, including medical personnel in Peshawar's Khyber Hospital, support the "X-gas" theory. It must be a sobering thought to Western military planners. The only course remaining to the West is to launch a more intense anti-gas defense effort than has been the policy in the past. If Afghanistan is any clue to the future, the next war may be too late.

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THE TIE THAT BINDS

Search For Freedom Unites Afghan Rebels

NIGHT was falling in the Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan and the Tribal Trust territory. I was sitting in a lawn chair surrounded by a half-dozen Afghans, when the heavy metal gate to Haji Laiq Shah's courtyard burst open and a Russian jeep, with the flag of the Hezbi-Islami of Afghanistan sewn roughly onto the canvas sides, thundered in.

The jeep's doors opened and another half-dozen Afghans, heavily armed with a cross section of Western/communist-bloc weapons, spilled out. One man quickly closed the gate and stationed himself near the jeep while the others, surrounding their leader, Mului Jalal Udi Den, picked their way carefully along the edge of Haji's flower garden towards us.

After shaking hands with everyone and a few remarks about the *Jihad* (holy war), who I was and what I was doing, we surged towards Haji's house. After removing

our shoes, we walked into the spacious main room and settled ourselves on thick pillows scattered along the walls on the floor. Haji explained we would talk business after we had enjoyed a "fine Afghan feast." Within minutes, in honor of the meeting between the Mului who is, if he's still alive, the military commander of the Hezbi-Islami of Afghanistan (one of a number of political groups fighting the Russians) and myself as a correspondent for *Soldier of Fortune* Magazine, the feast was spread. It included massive amounts of fried rice and potatoes (the fried potatoes were for Paul James, an English freelance photographer who was with me), *nan*, the traditional bread of the region, roast chicken, fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and a few carrots.

Before eating, we washed our hands in water poured from a small pitcher into a portable basin. Then we turned our attention to the meal and dug in with relish — with our hands. When the meal was over, we returned to the pillows at the far end of the large room, where platters piled with oranges were spread around, and topped the meal off with tea.

Continued on page 52

DRAFT

Continued from page 35

dedicated professionals are adequately compensated, while at the same time paying "apprentices" commensurate to their worth — just as in private industry.

Second, it would once again make the armed services representative of American society. "Mike from the Middle Class" and "Reggie the Rich Kid" have an obligation to this country that they should not be permitted to ignore. Furthermore, history shows that every country which has ever depended for its protection upon the less privileged, or soldiers who in effect are mercenaries, has ultimately succumbed to more vigorous opponents who drew their soldiers from all walks of life.

A draft would insure retention of priceless technicians and specialists, as well as those leather-lunged sergeants and petty officers who compose the backbone of combat forces.

Conscription would put four men into those M60A1 tanks at Fort Carson and make it possible for the 45th Mechanized to send a brigade overseas to meet a scenario-C emergency without cannibalizing the 4th's other two brigades. So, too, it would permit deployment to the Indian Ocean of a businesslike fleet — and its reinforced battalion of Marines — without stripping the Caribbean and Mediterranean fleets of valuable ships and the personnel to sail them.

Make no mistake, the United States is in trouble militarily, and it will remain so as long as politicians and malleable generals keep trying to prove that the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) works. It clearly does not, and the services' problems will not be resolved by throwing more manpower money at them, depending on the minorities, society's dispossessed and Category 4s to fill the ranks, or by forcing dedicated servicemen and women to depend upon food stamps or other forms of welfare in order to remain in military service.

The military malaise will be corrected only through reinstatement of a fair and equitable form of conscription.

This nation's leadership, from Jimmy Carter on down to the greenest Congressman, must realize this — and soon.

Until they do, every mullah with maniacal eyes, long white beard, black turban and insatiable lust for blood, and every fatigue-clad, rum-swilling, cigar-chomping Russian puppet will feel free to pluck tail feathers from the American Eagle without fear of retaliation.

CHARTS (House)

Continued from page 37

Table with columns: District/State Representative, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, T. Rows include RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TENNESSEE, TEXAS, UTAH, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA, WISCONSIN, and WYOMING.

SENATE ISSUES

ISSUE NO. 1

RHODESIAN CHROME — Bill (S-174) to halt the importation of Rhodesian

chrome, and thereby bring the U.S. into compliance with UN sanctions imposed on Rhodesia in 1966. Bill passed 66-26, 15 March 1977. "1" was a vote to continue importation, "0" a vote not to.

ISSUE NO. 2

BUDGET TARGETS — Tower (R-Texas) amendment to Senate Conference Res. 80 to increase national defense spending for Fiscal Year 1979 by \$1.2 billion in outlays and \$1.6 billion in budget authority. Amendment rejected 21-74, 26 April 1978. "1" was a vote to increase defense spending, "0" a vote not to.

ISSUE NO. 3

RHODESIA — Stennis (D-Miss.) motion to table and thus kill the Tsongas (D-Mass.)/Javits (R-N.Y.) amendment to delete a provision in S-428 (Fiscal 1980 Defense Procurement Bill) to discontinue economic sanctions against Rhodesia. (In effect, those Senators who voted in favor of the Stennis motion were voting to lift the economic sanctions that had been imposed on Rhodesia.) Motion agreed to 52-41, 12 June 1979. "1" was a vote to lift sanctions, "0" a vote not to.

ISSUE NO. 4

PANAMA CANAL — Dole (R-Kan.) amendment to HR-111 (Panama Canal Treaties Implementation) to authorize the U.S. President to take any appropriate action to ensure that the canal remained secure and open. Amendment rejected 46-50, 26 July 1979. "1" was a vote to authorize President to take action, "0" a vote not to.

ISSUE NO. 5

AID TO COMMUNIST NATIONS — Adoption of a committee amendment to HR-4472 (Foreign Aid Appropriations) to delete the House-passed prohibition on direct or indirect U.S. aid to Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia or the Central African Republic. (In effect, those Senators who voted yes were in favor of aid to those countries.) Amendment adopted 49-65, 9 October 1979. "1" was a vote to continue prohibition of aid. "0" a vote not to.

ISSUE NO. 6

DEFENSE SPENDING — Hollings (D-S.C.) motion to S Con Res 86 (Fiscal Year 1981 Budget Targets) to table and thus kill the Nelson (D-Wis.) amendment to cut \$2 billion from defense outlays and \$400 million from interest payments and transfer the funds to domestic programs. (In effect, those Senators who voted against the Hollings motion were in favor of transferring funds from defense to domestic programs.) Motion agreed to 64-30, 7 May 1980. "1" was a vote to table the amendment to cut, "0" a vote not to.



STATE & SENATOR	ISSUES						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
Alabama-Stewart(D)*	*	*	0	1	1	1	3
Alaska-Gravel(D)	0	0	-	1	1	1	3
Arizona-Goldwater(R)	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Arkansas-Bumpers(D)	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
California-Cranston(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado-Hart(D)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Florida-Stone(D)	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Georgia-Talmadge(D)	-	0	1	0	1	1	3
Hawaii-Inouye(D)	-	0	-	-	0	1	1
Idaho-Church(D)	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Indiana-Bayh(D)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Iowa-Jepsen(R)*	*	*	1	1	1	1	4
Kansas-Dole(R)	-	1	1	1	1	1	5
Kentucky-Ford(D)	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
Louisiana-Long(D)	0	0	1	-	1	1	3
Maryland-Mathias(R)	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Missouri-Eagleton(D)	0	0	0	-	1	0	1
Nevada-Laxalt(R)	1	1	1	1	-	1	5
New Hampshire-Durkin(D)	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
New York-Javits(R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. Carolina-Morgan(D)	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Ohio-Glenn(D)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Oregon-Packwood(R)	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
So. Carolina-Hollings(D)	-	0	1	0	1	1	3
So. Dakota-McGovern(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah-Garn(R)	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Vermont-Leahy(D)	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Washington-Magnuson(D)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wisconsin-Nelson(D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



REQUIEM FOR RHODESIA

by John Doe

Ed's Note: After a two-week visit to what was then Rhodesia in December 1979, SOF Editor Bob Poos wrote an analysis of the situation there and made some predictions about what lay in store for the African democracy should upcoming elections be won by one of the two major terrorist forces comprising the "Popular Front," (See SOF April, 1980 p. 38). The forecast: Divisiveness between the two major PF factions, ZAPU and ZANU, chaos after transfer of power was effected, economic decline and an exodus of whites who up to then had furnished a stabilizing influence on matters political, economic and military. Poos' predictions are coming true all too quickly, as this report from an officer in a Rhodesian para-military unit reveals. Rhodesia is now Zimbabwe. Its newly elected leader is Robert Mugabe of ZANU and he appears to be making good on his long-ago-made promise to turn the little, land-locked southern African nation into a Marxist-oriented state.

Greetings from the shambles of a once fine country. The armed forces are but a shadow of their former selves. Conditions make it clear that the future is insecure and perilous.

The ruling regime of Robert Mugabe is moving fast and placing its chosen into

government departments with alacrity. Ex-government employees still working are to be removed with dispatch and replaced with politically motivated (Marxist) young workers.

The effects of this policy already manifest themselves in government inefficiency and tardiness, and a graft system has sprung up.

Farm thefts are at unimaginable levels — miles of fencing wire and tons of building materials stolen — and stock thefts rampant. In some areas, if a farm is left vacant for more than a day, little of value remains upon the owner's return.

Some 9,000 prisoners were recently given amnesty and released, resulting in an unprecedented crime wave. No one seems to care.

"Workers' Committees" are being formed in industry and farming. The ruling party (ZANU) has a finger in every pie. Labor wages are being raised everywhere — a laudable objective — but little consideration is given to the ramifications of such a move on a shaky economy.

Shootings and grenade incidents occur regularly, mainly in outlying townships, but a nasty one occurred recently in downtown Salisbury, where a gang of PF thugs shot a man and woman. Rural areas are still terrorized by groups of "dissidents" and few reaction forces are left to deal with them.

What remains of the white-led armed forces is not deployed for "political reasons." So the whites are melting away — especially the security forces — as they see no point in staying. This creates an intolerable burden for those who stay behind in hopes of maintaining some semblance of order.

I chose to remain this long. The main problem is the "Crisis of Expectations" arising from post-election failure of the new regime to fulfill wartime promises. It simply can't produce, though it tries.

The "Povo" expects things he cannot obtain — or handle if he did — which is paving the way to further confrontation.

There have been a slew of strikes all over the country, mainly to demand outlandish wage increases. Following heavy threats, e.g. National Sabotage, made by the Ministries concerned, most strikers have returned to work.

As an aside, there is the disgusting spectacle of those whites who are executing an about-face. It never ceases to amaze me how one can "readjust" himself when the "right" moment arrives. I am afraid that, for me, such a solution is impossible.

Salisbury is now a dirty city, with rubbish and filth everywhere. It's not yet as bad as some other formerly-white cities in Africa, having a good basic municipal and legal background, but things worsen daily.

There have been a series of demonstrations against the existing police force, obviously orchestrated, demanding that it be

replaced by a ZANU (PF) force, resulting in an executive order that the force go easy on those aspects of offense prevention that were causing concern to the ruling party. The rot starts at the top.

The police force is slowly disintegrating before our eyes, but some members are making a valiant attempt to keep it on an even keel, and it has regained some of the ground lost initially. The force is still able to exert some control over the gun-toting thugs, and arrest and incarcerate them if the occasion so demands.

ZIPRA (ZAPU) is maintaining a low and disciplined profile compared to the ZANLA (ZANU) rabble. There can be little doubt that a confrontation is in the offing. ZIPRA is insulted by only three parliamentary seats and feels that their leader, Joshua Nkomo, got a raw deal being Minister of Home Affairs — which includes the police force — and they may be right. Their general behavior is impeccable, although they are responsible for some of the "dissidents" running around the Matebeleland area. They appear to be building up their strength by recruiting ex-Auxiliaries and Muzorewa men into their fold and buying strategically located properties along the major roads. Money seems to be no problem, which causes wonder as to its source.

Radio and television have become, with the assistance of the BBC, party organs which daily churn out blatant socialist propaganda. South Africa is referred to as the "fascist regime," the "Pretoria regime," "apartheid South Africa," etc. The U.S. gets its fair share of abuse in connection with Cuba and Latin America — yet continues to demonstrate a conciliatory attitude toward this country.

We have to suffer (or switch off) politically motivated interviews — often conducted by whites — relating the evils of the previous regime, and continual guarded but snide comments about whites in general.

One hears "party and revolutionary" songs off and on all day long, and all political commentaries are slanted and biased to an unbelievable degree toward communist/socialist ideas.

The North Koreans and Chinese have established themselves as friends of the people — the Russians were badly snubbed by Mugabe at the independence celebrations — and official talk is "comrade this" and "comrade that."

Great mention is made of "the masses" (either toiling or soiling, depending on your point of view), the oppressed peasants — oppressed by whom is becoming increasingly unclear. The full gamut of communist-oriented garbage is being spewed forth daily. Par for the course, I suppose.

I think I'll leave next week.



FLIER FOR HIRE

Art Scholl: Stunt Pilot for "THE GREAT WALDO PEPPER"

by Marv Wolf

I DI Amin was sitting on my chest. Orson Welles was in his lap. At least, that's what it felt like — somewhere between four and five Gs into an outside loop, somewhere between heaven and earth, somewhere between the adrenaline high of adventure and the awful, sickening low of impending doom. I was strapped into the front seat of Art Scholl's Super Chipmunk, and he was putting the gutsy little DeHavilland through an aerobatic routine above, around and through the foothills below Mt. San Antonio.

Coming out of a Cuban Eight into a steep climb topped by a hammerhead, I felt my weight return to normal for a moment, just before diving for the green hills at around 300 miles per hour. It was zero-G time and I weighed nothing. The greasy hamburger I'd gobbled for a late breakfast reminded me it was undigested. Throw up? I didn't know which way up was.

One part of my mind — the part that is cool, detached, logical — was reminding the other part that there was nothing to work up a sweat about, that the silver-haired pilot in the back seat did this sort of stuff every day, that he might well be the best there is in the world of stunt flying.

The other part wasn't listening. It was trying to comprehend the rolling horizon, the alternating periods of weightlessness and crunching multiple Gs and the awful nearness of those little shrubs on the foothills that seemed to reach for our plane. And somewhere, dimly, in the back of my numbed mind, was an awareness of the ever-present possibility of engine failure — or of a wing coming off. At least there wasn't anybody shooting at us. Call it a pucker factor of nine. Make that 9½.

For the guy doing the flying, the factor was somewhat less. For Art Scholl it was like commuting to work on a crowded L.A. freeway; like roller skating the Venice boardwalk on Saturday afternoon; like pushing a street-legal cycle up a dry wash. For Art Scholl, kicking around in the skies above Rialto, Calif. in his modified stunt plane was about as thrilling as turning lug nuts down at the grease rack — all in a day's work. Call it a pucker factor of three.

At age 48, and with more than 13,000 flying hours in his logbooks — plus uncounted thousands flown but never logged — Art Scholl may very well be the world's most sought-after stunt pilot. If you thrilled to George Peppard in **The Great Waldo Pepper**, it was Scholl you saw doubling for the actor in aerials. If you got a kick out of **Baa Baa Black Sheep**, then you witnessed more of his aerial handiwork. He's been in front of the cameras — and behind them as second-unit director or flying a camera-equipped chase plane — in dozens of movie features, TV films, commercials and industrial films. A rare combination of guts and savvy, he has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to take a

scriptwriter's "impossible" stunt and translate it into a polished piece of action on film. A willingness to take on tasks that others decline as being too dangerous has placed Scholl in heavy demand by producers.

Man Of Multiple Masks.

There are several Art Scholls. There is Scholl the movie pilot. There is Scholl the airshow daredevil, logging 140 performances a year at 35 airshows from coast to coast, with audiences numbering in the millions. And there is Art Scholl Aviation, Inc., his Rialto, Calif., general aviation operation. There you may rent one of a dozen or more aircraft, arrange to have some high-priority cargo or passenger delivered nearly anywhere in the West, or have your plane serviced or repaired. You can learn to fly, and you can learn stunt flying if you're ready for it. If you're really advanced in aerobatics, you may be able to get Scholl to teach you personally — but few qualify for his advanced techniques, so most of the instruction is done by one of the several full- or part-time flight instructors working for Scholl.

But it is Scholl the performer, Scholl the organizer, Scholl the driving, energetic professional who is by far the most interesting to watch.

"I don't see where he gets the energy to do what he does," says his wife, Judy. "Last night he was filming on location until midnight. He got home about three this morning. He was up at six, in the office before eight, in meetings all morning, at an interview through lunch. This afternoon he's got a [film] producer coming down to look at some planes, and they'll start shooting on location just before dark. They'll be through at midnight again, and Art's got another production starting a hundred miles from here first thing in the morning. I can't keep up with him. Nobody can."

"World leaders are authoritarians — and so am I."

This thought — that perhaps no one else is quite as able as Scholl — has occurred to Art himself. He is not a modest man. He is not an easy man to work for. He is not, understand, given much to boasting. It's more of an attitude, conveyed through body language, through his short but tightly reigned temper, through facial expressions and conversational shortcuts, through impatience with anything short of perfection. But that is his standard, and if he holds others to it, he is not guilty of double talk, for his own goals, his performance of the most routine — or demanding — task call for the same perfection from Scholl.

He is driven, no less than he is driving. But let him tell it his way:

"If you look at the world leaders, they're authoritarians. When I go to put on an airshow, I'm a performer, flying my plane in the show. I'm an announcer. I'm a promoter. I help sell tickets and make arrangements to have other performers in the show and preshow publicity. A hundred little details.

"Some guys would find other people to handle each area, and just sit back and supervise. That's not an authoritarian's way. I'd rather do it myself — whether it's coordinating with the Chamber of Commerce or moving a portable outhouse to a better location. I'd rather just go do it than stand around and watch. That's the way I am — I'm an authoritarian."

At dress rehearsal for one recent airshow, Scholl was running around getting things ready for press people to film some of the acts.

"No chocks for me!"

When he arrived at his plane at the start of rehearsal he noticed someone had put wheel chocks on his own Super Chipmunk — and flew into a towering rage.

He found the mechanic in charge of the plane and read him the riot act. Later, much cooler, he explained why this incident set him off:

"There's no excuse for little things like that. All my people know the brakes are set on that plane and it doesn't need chocks. Yet in industry, you always-always-always-always put chocks on a plane — it's the thing to



Art Scholl and author Marv Wolf in Scholl's Super Chipmunk. Photo: affixed camera.

Those who work for him agree. "One thing you learn about Art, real quick, is that his way is the way it's going to be," says one senior mechanic who has more than once felt Scholl's wrath. "The thing is, nearly all the time he **is** right. And when he isn't, it still has to be **his** way or no way at all. Then you gotta remember that it's his ass up there in the plane, and his life that will be on the line if something goes wrong."

do. But my people are trained about **my** plane — they know that most chocks won't fit on it.

"The chocks are too big, and the ones they used were on the wheel pans. I got in the airplane and moved it, getting ready to taxi out for my routine, and the chocks broke the wheel pans. That means not only a costly repair but, because there's more drag from the broken pans, the plane handles differently.

“That’s the kind of tiny detail that can make a difference. I went bananas — completely out of my mind over it. But if someone were to borrow my pickup truck and go around the corner and roll it upside down, completely total it — I’m not gonna say too much of anything.

“Because there’s a difference between the little thing that happens because someone is lazy or careless — and the big things, the things you can’t do much about. A lot of people don’t understand that I’m still alive today only because of the little things. Now the little things are what I look at, because most of the big things you just can’t help.

“It goes back to being an authoritarian. I like to think I can delegate authority. But when I get under pressure, so many things to do at once, then the only way the little things will get done right is for me to do them. Obviously I can’t do everything. I sometimes know it’s wrong, but I go ahead and do it anyway. You have to weigh how far you want to push this thought. . . .

“You know, an extreme authoritarian is a bad leader, and the same is true of the opposite. So you be an authoritarian — but you weigh, you back off and you ultimately have to delegate some things,” he says — and smiles to let you know that he doesn’t always do what he says he ought to.

Scholl dropped out of high school in his senior year. That was back in Brown Deer, Wis., where he hung around a local airport and washed airplanes in exchange for flying lessons. “I’d sneak away from home, as a kid in school, and go out to the Brown Deer Airport. I quit high school — I was going to finish up at night — to go to work at the airport. Eventually I went back to school and finished. I had my private license by the time I was a senior. I came out to California when I was 18 and enrolled at Northrop University [then Northrop Institute of Technology].

Scholl’s Contribution To Modern Technology

“But it was an all-boys school, and at that time I wasn’t ready for an eight-to-five technical environment, so I transferred to a junior college, where I got my airframe and powerplant license — it was fun. I finished up and went to work as a rocket engineer at China Lake Naval Air Station. That was my first involvement with the military. I was too young for World War II. Anyway, that was where I got involved with weapons. I was assigned to the anti-submarine and shore-support division. And then I got involved with redesigning the spin-stabilized aerial rocket. It’s the same rocket they use today.

“In fact, the project was put to me like this: My boss said, ‘Here’s a WWII rocket, and we want you to redesign it using the new technology we have today. You should be able to get it to go twice as far and carry twice the warhead, with the same 32-inch casing length.’ We couldn’t make it any longer because there were *thousands of racks on airplanes* all over the world, and the Navy didn’t want to have to replace them. So, eventually, I succeeded in doing just that. And we added a non-propulsive safety feature because the rockets are carried on a ship, and if the ship was to get hit we didn’t want them to go off. That was my main contribution to the military,” he recalls.

He got out of teaching because of the bull.

After that, Scholl took a leave of absence to go after more education. Eventually, he wound up with a Ph.D. in aeronautics and began teaching in California





universities. But the teaching life palled on him.

"I quit teaching in 1976. After about 18 years in teaching I began to ask myself, 'What in the world am I doing here?' I loved working with young people, but the politics and bureaucracy in the schools and the teaching methods — I just couldn't take it any more.

"When I first started teaching, I had plenty of authority in the classroom. I could control the class — if somebody was bad, you could kick their ass out. Nowadays it's not that way — the teacher has to make sure that students are taken care of, that everyone is happy and if they don't like something you have to do it their way, because they fill out an evaluation, and if a teacher gets bad evaluations it's not good for the career. Too much of that stuff is going on. A bunch of bullcrap. I'm really glad I'm out of it. And it's very bad for our country, the way our society is leaning toward that sort of thing," he says.

But if he was dissatisfied with his ability to control the classroom situation, it didn't show in the air. He was selected in 1966 as a member of the U.S. National Aerobatic Team. That year, at the international competition in Moscow, he showed stunt fliers from all over the world what American aviators could do. In 1968 it was more of the same, at Magdeburg, East Germany; in 1970 at Hullavington, England, and in 1972 at Paris. When he retired from competition in 1975, after nine consecutive years on the U.S. team, he left as the reigning U.S. National and International Champion.

Stunt flying — and doing the impossible.

His successes led him to the movie industry, and this is where Scholl feels his future lies. "The big money is in stunt doubling — flying for an actor who can't, won't or isn't permitted to do his own stunts. And every time I think the writers have

Art Scholl flies his Super Stearman for wingwalker Colin Murphy, during Rialto Airshow. Photo: Marv Wolf.



Stunt pilot Art Scholl seen here beside his Penzoil Super Chipmunk. Photo: Marv Wolf.

come up with the most difficult, next-to-impossible stunt there is, and I do it, then some other producer asks me for something even tougher," he complains.

But he says it, one understands, for the record, because the truth is Art Scholl **likes** to do the impossible. It is partly the challenge that appeals to him, and partly the financial reward. But Scholl is not merely a daredevil. He studies and examines each stunt in great detail. There is as much planning in an Art Scholl movie stunt as you will find in a commando raid — a **successful** commando raid.

There are old pilots, and there are bold pilots. There are few old, bold pilots. The reason that Scholl may be counted among their number is his planning. "People see aviation accidents, fatalities, and they wonder, 'how did it happen?' I can tell you how most of them happen," he says. "You cannot make a mistake."

Go for it — or walk away.

"You have to plan, look at the risks, and then go for it. But you either do or you don't. There's no in-between, you can't say, 'well maybe I should, maybe I can do it, maybe I shouldn't try.'

"You make up your mind that you'll do it — or that you won't. If you won't, then don't even crank your engine. Just walk away. But if you decide to go for it — then you gotta give it all you got. Let me give you an example. Last night we were out on location. We're down on a road. There's a 90-degree, 25-knot crosswind. We've got exactly five feet of clearance on each wingtip. Now that sounds like a lot of room, but not if you can't judge it. And it's night. I would have a hard time taxiing between planes with three feet of room in daylight and making it. So you can't look at it. You can't let yourself know that it exists. You just have to know where the centerline is, know that you're going to stay on the centerline, and go for it.

"When we were setting up that shot, I remembered that I had screwed up on a scene in **Where the Buffalo Roam**. In that film, I took off from this field in a canyon. The canyon makes a 30-degree turn to the left and the walls are 2,000 feet high. So I take off in the middle of the night, but there are lights on the field so I can see. Then I have to come back and land in another canyon. The approach to this is around another hill, and you have to go around it in total darkness and set down, after executing a sweeping S-turn. And I'm cautious, because I hate this. This is really bad news, because you can get night blindness.

Flying Blind

"I take off, and then realize the lights are much too bright — I didn't think they'd be that bright. Not like regular runway lights — you could be 100 miles away on a clear night and still see **that** runway. So I take off, and when I'm up I rotate — and I'm totally, 100-percent blind. I can't see a star in the sky. Nothing. And there I am, 100 feet up, off the end of the runway, blind, in a canyon.

"I didn't have anything else I could do, so I made a 30-degree turn on instruments and went out IFR. I climbed up a few thousand feet and just sat up there, circling, for about 15 minutes, trying to get my night vision back. People on the ground are calling, 'Are you all right? Is everything okay?' Jeesusz Christ.

"Now I gotta land. I can't get really low because I can't see the hills. So finally, enough of my night vision came back that I could see the light reflecting off the runway on one side of the mountain. But I couldn't see the hill at the end of the runway. Pitch black. So I went against the mountain with one wingtip, swung the other in the grass and just plopped around, put it down on a 1,000-foot strip with a 100-foot drop into a river at the end.



RIGHT: Camera being affixed to wing by mechanic Kevin Kammer. Photo: Marv Wolf. LEFT: Flying is worth the shirt off your back. T-shirt fragments torn from pilots' backs after first solo flight. Photo: Marv Wolf.



"Last night I'm thinking about this, and I went and got the stunt director. I don't think you're ever too old to learn. I told the director about the other stunt. Of course he'd heard me bitch about it for a year, but this time I made him listen. We had them light the trees I had to clear — they weren't shooting that area so they wanted to put plenty of light on it. Now there's a tree where one wingtip has to come within about two feet. If I stay on the centerline, within two feet of it, I'm okay. Well, they wanted to put a light on the tree, hang it right there. I don't even want to know it's there. I don't want a light on it.

"The scene is that I have these bright runway lights on, and just as I touch down they turn the lights off, and then I crash — we dummy the crash later.

"I'm remembering how bright those lights are, and I know as soon as I'm down and they turn the lights off I'll be blind. This is an 800-foot strip, and when I'm ready we take off, do seven or eight touch-and-go landings, swing up through the trees and come around again — but once I'm down and full flaps and gonna do the shot, there's no touch and go. There's a bulldozer parked on the other end so you can't overshoot and wipe out the production crew.

"Once I'm down, flaps are full — that's it. I can't go around again. I just went for it, once I had made up my mind that I could do it. The plane is still down, because I had flown in and out of that strip during daylight, and there's wire and stuff off the end — no way I'm going off at night. I'll take it up from there tomorrow, when there's light. And these are the things you learn, and that's how you stay alive to make another film on another day," he says.

Learning a lesson the hard way.

"But still, sometimes, people don't listen. They don't learn. Another pilot is working on this film with me, flying a jet helicopter. Now he's heard the story I just told you. And the director has heard the story. They take off from this brightly lit runway and then turn the lights off — and they almost got killed. The pilot was totally blinded and had vertigo at the same time — it's not too hard in a chopper.

"He had to go on the artificial horizon at 30 feet and fly sideways, because he knew that there were trees up there. He just had to hover, hoping he didn't hit anything, and lower, not knowing if there were rocks or trees or what under him. Nothing else he could do. He was lucky to walk away from it, and I tell you, you can't make a long career out of lucky."

Art Scholl will admit to fear — but not your everyday, **ogawdwe'regonnacrash** fear. What scares Scholl, he says, is the thought of what might happen if he lost his temper. "Somebody broke in here the other day and stole the gas caps and siphoned some of the gas from my customers' planes. Now what scares me is to think of what would happen if I caught those SOB's. I have the worst temper — I just go out of my mind. And either I'd kill them or they'd kill me. Either way I'd be a loser. Yeah, that's what scares me," he says.

Scholl's Closest Call

In more than 25 years of flying, Scholl has checked out in more than 180 different types of airplanes — from modern military jets to a 1908 Curtis Pusher, one of the first airplanes that was more than a mere curiosity. The closest he came to death wasn't in a plane — it was in a boat.

"I used to race boats, just for fun, for five or six years. One day in Lake Powell, I was leading the pack of about

130 boats, had just set a track record of 98 miles an hour around the course, when I caught a chine (the prow hooked into a wave) and the boat just turned over into the air and fell back. And that was the end of my boat racing," he adds.

Performing in the air is a physically demanding job. There are a number of maneuvers that many stunt pilots perform with regularity. But one that few will attempt is the **lomcevak** — Czech for headache. In this maneuver — so risky that the Eastern bloc and Soviet airforces won't let their pilots perform it — the aircraft tumbles groundward, end over end. The hazard is that the G-forces are both extreme and change rapidly. Scholl does the lomcevak maneuver twice a week — 35 weeks a year — at airshows and whenever a movie stunt demands it.

"The trick is to do the stunt and still be able to control the aircraft, to pull out before you hit the ground," he explains.

He once packed a NASA flight recorder along on a **lomcevak** and confounded the experts, who had long supposed that pilots couldn't stand more than seven positive or four negative Gs without blacking out. According to the flight recorder, Scholl withstood 12 positive and 8½ negative Gs.

The plane that Scholl uses for this maneuver, his Super Chipmunk, bears as much resemblance to a standard DeHavilland model as an Indy racer does to a showroom Ford. The wings are chopped off 18 inches, the rudder is enlarged and the engine is about twice as powerful as the standard model.

But after you have talked about horsepower and wingspan, about G-forces and night blindness, about making money and teaching school, about the movie business and about general aviation's day-to-day grind, you are left with a question. A big question. A question about the why. Why does Art Scholl do this, year after year? Why does he risk his no-longer-young backside, day after day, doing the impossible, and then doing it again? Why?

"Man strives for three things," says Scholl. "I really believe this. First, man strives for **recognition**. That's the most important thing there is. The next thing is **position**. And **money** is last. What good is money if you don't have recognition and position? It can be self-recognition, self-satisfaction. That's part of it. I fly because it's a thrill getting the recognition from the crowds. Competing in international meets gave me position — and money. I'm at a point right now where I've gotten all the recognition I need from airshows. Now movie flying is interesting, challenging and rewarding. It gives me a lot of recognition.

"And I need that," he says, as his little black Yorkshire terrier, Aileron, dashes into the room. Cupping an empty hand as though to hide a bit of food, Scholl puts the tiny black ball of fur through a short series of exercises: she stands on hind legs, whirls and falls down in mock death when Scholl points a finger and says "boom." Then she comes happily over, tail wagging at 99rpm, for a pat on the head and a scratch on the belly.

"See what I mean," laughs Scholl, master of the dreaded **lomcevak**, the outside loop, the Cuban Eight, the Hammerhead, the night-blinded approach to 800 feet of grass and a massive bulldozer, "see what I mean, everybody needs recognition. Everybody. Just like Aileron."



FREEDOM

Continued from page 43

"Now," Haji said, leaning forward, "what would you like to talk to the commander about? You may ask anything you want and he will tell you because we are very proud to have a journalist from your magazine here."

As my questions about the holy war, the Afghans who are fighting it and the kind of military operations they conduct against the Russians were answered, my understanding of the complex Afghan war grew. I was also interested in the Mului. Like other Afghan religious leaders, he is penniless and owns no property. Although he is married and has two small children, support for himself and his family comes from his followers. Because he is a spiritual leader and sets an example for his people, he is held up by everyone as an ideal person.

It is ironic, yet traditional, that this warrior and spiritual leader of the Mujahideen is both fierce and gentle. As we talked, his voice came across as soft and smooth without the emotional outbursts so common among other military or religious leaders. Yet I could sense its power, and the threat it carried to those who violated Islamic law or disagreed with him. Although I could not understand a single word of what he said, I knew the Mului was both a man of honor and one who never blinked as he killed his enemies, whether in battle or executing them after battle.

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: Only communists and Russians are executed when captured. Most Afghan soldiers captured by the Mujahideen are turned loose because they are Moslem.)

"I started by talking first."

"I started fighting the communists," he explained through Haji, who was acting as the interpreter, "when I returned from Mecca in 1974. At first all I could do was talk against them, although no one would listen to me. It was not until they came to power in Kabul that the people began to hear what I was saying."

I asked him to explain why the people did not listen to him when he first began to warn them about the growing communist threat to Afghanistan.

"You must understand," he said, "that the Afghan people have a very simple view of the world and of themselves. They live under laws and customs that have been handed down from generation to generation. They did not see the threat, the danger, because they don't understand the communists. Only when they came to power and began to change the laws, destroy the Koran and challenge what had been a way of life in this country for generations, did my people see the danger.

"The communists, in their vicious attacks, also opened the door to a dream we have long held for Afghanistan — the creation of a true Islamic state."

The Mului, and others like him, view the overthrow of the previous Afghan government and the establishment of a communist state as an opportunity to create the Islamic Afghan state which unites all of the tribes under Islamic law — a dream most of them have carried for centuries. Their first step was to throw out the communists. Because the reds violated not only Islamic law but also age-old traditions, the religious leaders found the Afghan people ready to fight.

"We stopped using words two years ago," the Mului continued, "and went to the mountains to fight. Then we were just guerrillas. We didn't know how to fight modern weapons so we fought as we always had and learned new ways to kill tanks and other armored weapons."

Within a few months, after opening their fight against the communists, the Freedom Fighters, as they were called then, had become organized into various political groups with one common goal: the Islamic state. Religious and political differences kept — and still are keeping — them apart. But even with those problems, as the war continued, they pushed the communist forces back towards Kabul.

"When we captured new weapons, we learned how to use them; sometimes Afghan soldiers would come to us [defect] and we would use their knowledge to teach more of our men how to fight and use the new weapons," the Mului said.

An aspect of the Afghan war that is often lost on Western journalists is the reason for the early victories of the Freedom Fighters: it is not so much that they were superior fighters or that the Afghan army was poorly trained and equipped, as it was that the Afghans, because they are Moslems, found it hard to kill the Freedom Fighters who were fighting for Islam when the Afghan army was not. Many key victories in the first phase of the Afghan war resulted from Afghan soldiers refusing to fight.

By December of last year, the Soviet Union knew it would not be able to keep a communist government in power in Kabul without jumping into the war itself. Even providing military support and advisers was not enough to turn the Islamic tide sweeping the country. Whether or not the Soviets really took into account the Freedom Fighters' determination and organization or believed they would be as stubborn as they are, is unknown.

"The Russians kill everyone."

The Mului and the others were caught unprepared for the Russians' lightning-like invasion.

"When the Russians came," he says,

"we were planning our final victories. At first we thought we would be able to fight them like we did the Afghan army. But the Russians are using new weapons; some, we are told, the Americans do not even have, and they don't fight only men but kill everyone when they attack — men, women, children." He paused for a minute and looked around the room, then turned his attention back to me. "But the West, America, does not believe us when we tell them the kinds of weapons the Russians are using."

As if to drive his point home, he removed a small cartridge from his pocket. The copper-jacketed slug was slightly larger than a .22 and the entire round resembled something which might be used in the States on varmints. It looked, however, deadly as hell.

SOF had already been alerted to the possible existence of some kind of Soviet small-arms ammunition, and I had put in weeks tracking the story down before starting my trip into Afghanistan. Then he dropped a bomb on me. According to Haji's translation: "When a man is shot with this bullet he almost always dies. Even a small wound here (he pointed to his forearm) will often kill."

"This bullet always kills."

I asked the commander what he was trying to say.

Haji picked up the round and turned it over in his hand. "The commander says that this bullet is not like others. Perhaps it has a poison in it — something that always kills. It is the most dangerous bullet the Russians have — all of the Mujahideen are afraid of being shot with this — not that they are afraid to die, but because of the way it makes them die. Their bodies swell up big, like the belly of a cow in the spring and water flows from them. Many of the bones are always broken in the body — even if they are not where the bullet has hit. It is a terrible weapon." (See "Afghanistan," SOF, September '80.)

Later, the commander produced another weapon I had never seen before. A tube-like weapon, it had a metal base at one end and the top two-thirds of the tube was cardboard. According to the Mului, it fired a small rocket which the Afghans claimed was either: HE, anti-armor, a type of radio device used by armor to call in aircraft or, in some cases — gas. (SOF brought one of these weapons to the States for testing.)

James went to work photographing the round and tube weapon, while the commander and I continued to talk. As we talked, he said, "The Russians know they cannot defeat us because we are fighting a Jihad for Allah. Unless they kill all of the Mujahideen, their families and everyone who is Moslem, they will never win — because we will never stop fighting. So, they use weapons like this and gas to kill us."

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SMGs FIND HOME ON THE RANGE

SOF Article Spurs BATF To Recant

by Galen L. Geer



Texas shooter sighting in his sporting rifle at Jim Day's newly opened range near Garland, Texas.

THE M16 bucked five times on "rock 'n' roll." My 19-year-old niece, Suzi, lurched back from the recoil. But she returned to the firing point, aimed the rifle at the junk-car targets again and popped off another five-round string.

"That," she said, putting the '16 back on the table, "is some kind of fun shooting."

Suzi had been firing a *rented* M16 at Jim Day's Garland, Tex., public shooting range. Earlier, Day had taught her how to defend herself with a handgun.

"It's really great to be open," Day said as we walked back to his office, "and I think the article *Soldier of Fortune* magazine published about our first venture into renting machine guns has a lot to do with the decision by the BATF people allowing us to rent automatic weapons, though with a few restrictions."

Day was referring to the July '80 issue of SOF which published a story about his attempt two years earlier, with partner Mark Brown, to rent SMGs. The project, though lucrative, was brief.

BATF stepped in on the third weekend and informed Day and Brown they violated the transfer-of-automatic-weapons laws by renting SMGs to people who did not have proper licenses. It was a strange interpretation then (and still is) that letting someone pay to shoot an automatic weapon under close supervision of a licensed owner comprises a "transfer." Still, BATF did its thing, the business folded and Day resumed operation of a conventional public shooting range. Partner Brown drifted out of Texas.

Just Good Business

"My thought was," Day explained, "that easy access to an exotic weapon might further develop local interest in shooting, inciting people to purchase their own handgun, rifle or shotgun. Then, this new shooter would require a place to practice and my range would be the logical location. It was simply an effort to expand my business — just like any other businessman."

Another project Day had on a back burner at the time was a new range area. Earlier this year, he and his wife decided to complete the range and plunged into the project to the tune of a quarter-of-a-million dollars. The result is a multi-purpose facility equipped with rifle, handgun, trap and skeet and automatic-weapon ranges. He built the new range without a SMG facility. On 3 June this year, he received a letter from a BATF top banana vindicating his earlier experiment with SMG rental.

"Soon after SOF published that article," says Day, "I received this letter from Nick Voinovich, Chief of the National Firearms Act Branch. It said I could resume my rent-a-submachine-gun range under some new conditions."

Getting the "Go Ahead"

The letter Jim received reads:

"Dear Mr. Day:

"In our August 18, 1978, response to your letter dated August 3, 1978, we expressed the opinion that the renting of your registered submachine guns to customers at your shooting range would constitute a 'transfer' as that term is defined in Section 5845(j) of the National Firearms Act (NFA).

"During the year following your request, we began to receive similar requests from persons in other areas of the country. As a result we have reconsidered our decision.

"The term 'transfer,' as defined in the NFA, includes 'selling, assigning, pledging, leasing, loaning, giving away or otherwise disposing of.' Although the courts have construed this definition broadly, we believe that the renting of submachine guns by a licensed and special (occupational) taxpayer at a shooting range on his licensed premises, would be permissible if proper safeguards were in effect to ensure that the licensee retained control and custody of the weapons at all times.

"For example, if the weapons were chained to the wall of the stalls where the shooters operated (in such a manner that the weapon could be fired downrange only), and if a responsible member of the licensee's business remained with the firearms at all times, it would appear that no 'transfer' would have taken place.

"We hope our revised position will be of help to you. *An article in the July 1980 edition of Soldier of Fortune magazine alerted us to the need to notify you of this modification in our position.* [SOF's italics] Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance."

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Nick Voinovich

Chief, National Firearms Act Branch

SOF's publication of Day's plight righted a bureaucratic wrong. We still think the chains are little more than BATF's determination to keep its fingers in the pie, but progress is progress.

New Troubles

But Day's troubles are not over. The fringe folks are still after him. Shortly before he opened his new range, a supposed friend and range cardholder, Mr. A.E. Allen, visited Day. Allen works for the Garland Building Inspector's Department and informed Day he could not open his business on schedule.

"They gave me what is called a red tag," Day says, "and explained that I had failed to obtain permits to put up the canopy over the shooting points!"

They told Day not to open and hinted that if he did, he would be arrested.

"I thought about it and then decided that a man can only take so much. So I opened the gates right on schedule and called my lawyer. I've got too much money and too many dreams invested in this place and I'm going to run it!"

Day wasn't arrested.

On 3 July, Day held a press day, inviting local news media (and SOF) out to the range. For the most part, he got good treatment from the press. One Dallas sta-

tion even set up a remote camera and broadcast its outdoor segment from the range.

"Another station," Day says, "just tried to do a hatchet job. They spent their time talking about what they thought was an important issue — an irate neighbor!"

The neighbor is a man named Jones who lives downrange from the rifle butts. However, the impact area is so high that shooters cannot see the house and there is little possibility a round could hit it.

"I went to visit Jones," Day said, "and offered him a tour of the range, but he hasn't come over and I don't think he will."

Day says: "We like to think we are more than just a range, that we run a place where men and women can come and learn about firearms and shooting — and safety."

Not For Men Only

One of Day's favorite projects is teaching women how to use handguns for self-defense.

"All a woman has to do," Day explains, "is show up and tell us she wants to learn how to use a handgun as a self-defense measure. I try to determine if she is really serious by telling her that if she does learn, she must be prepared to kill her attacker.

"My point is that the bad guy she wants to defend herself from might rape her, kill her, kill her children and anyone else around if she doesn't kill him first. If the woman has any doubts, I tell her to buy a can of mace and forget it."

Once Day is confident his student is there to learn, he starts her off with a .22, then moves to a .38 Special and ultimately to a .357 mag. Day provides the weapons for free. The only cost to the gals is ammo.

Day doesn't know how many women have taken the course, but he says it runs in highs and lows.

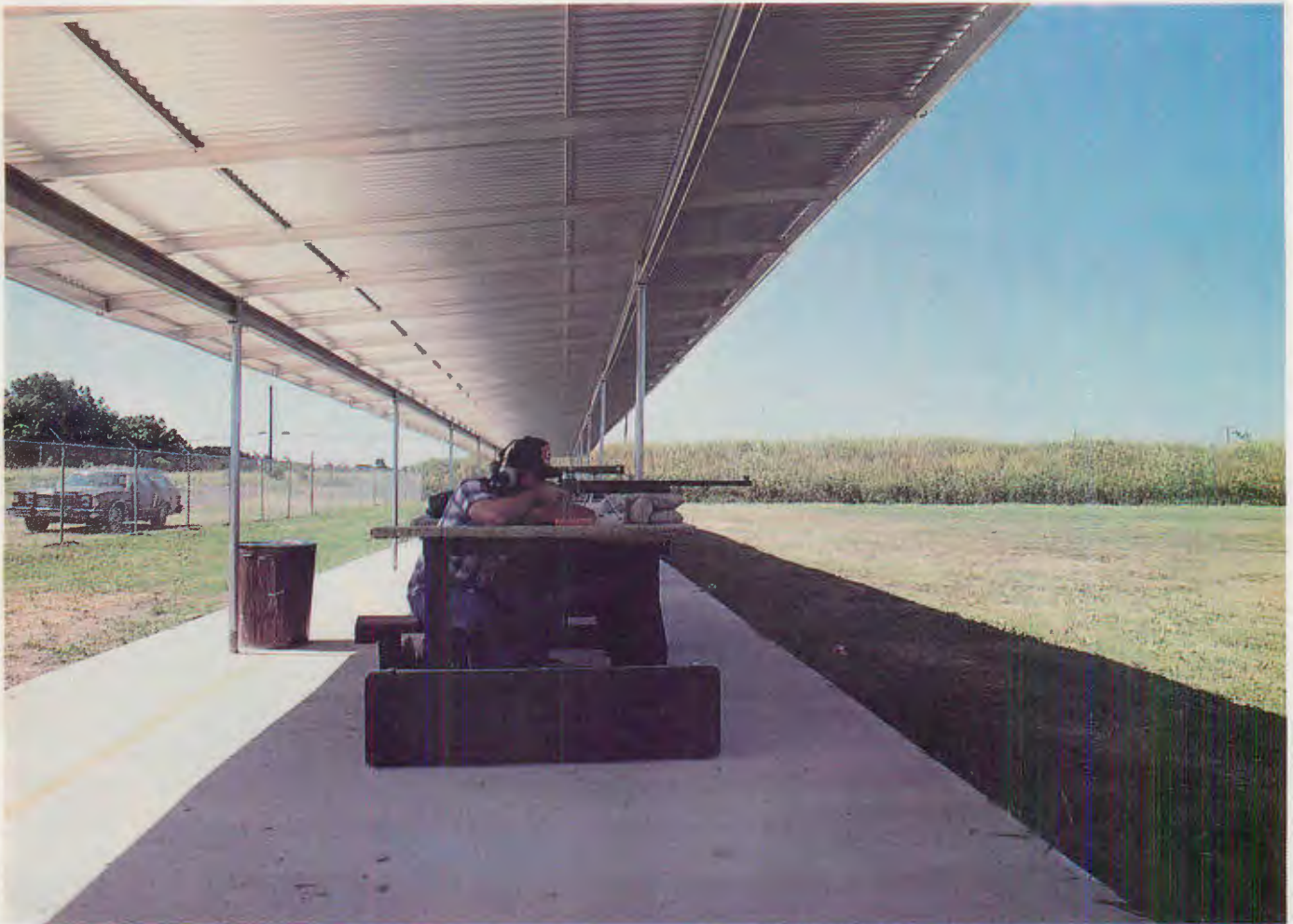
"Many of them wait until there is a rapist or other nut on the loose before they decide to learn to shoot. They should learn beforehand."

Just The Beginning

The course for women is only one of Jim Day's many planned projects. He has ideas for shooting matches, knock-down targets, picnic tables for families and more.

"Right now we're just glad to be open and happy we've got the submachine gun range. I think SOF played a big part in that opening — thanks, guys."

Don't mention it, Jim — that's part of what we're all about.



TOP: View down firing line on Day's new range. Canopy over firing points is what sparked trouble with Garland city government. Photo: Galen Geer

ABOVE LEFT: Author firing Jim Day's M16 on full auto the day after new range opened.



ABOVE RIGHT: Author's niece, Suzi, takes lesson from Jim Day in self-defense with handguns. Day's course is free to any woman who wants to take it, the only cost being the ammo shot up during training. Photo: Galen Geer

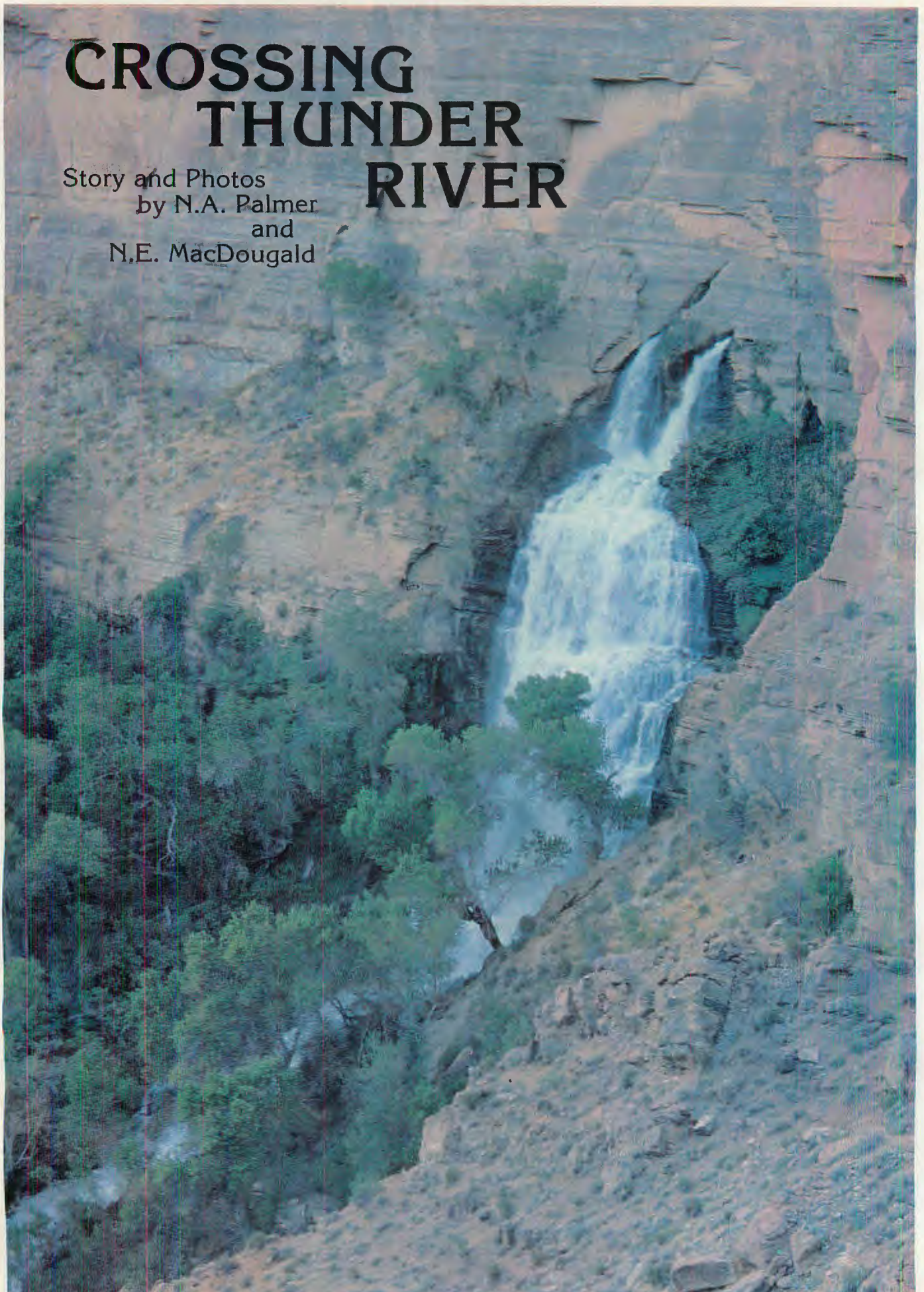


LEFT: Jim Day at his Garland, Texas range after firing his M16 on Rock 'n' Roll. Photo: Galen Geer



CROSSING THUNDER RIVER

Story and Photos
by N.A. Palmer
and
N.E. MacDougald







SOF Editor and Companion Demonstrate Grand Canyon Waterfall Tyrolean Traverse



Coming home: MacDougald has recrossed the river and photographs Palmer as he negotiates it. This tyrolean traverse system was established around a tree with the rope doubled, enabling it to be retrieved after the traverse was accomplished. Despite desert heat, the authors were shivering during the crossing because of spray and mist from the white water.

“ON belay!”

Waving an acknowledgement to my belayer, Palmer, and leaning out over raging whitewater, I snared a branch with a sling, then linked it to my climbing rope with a carabiner. I'd done several tyrolean traverses before, but not over such an awesome stretch of water.

Thunder River's headwaters in the Grand Canyon tumble from 1,200 feet of rock headwall, then carve a scar in the steep terrain beneath. Below, the canyon floor shimmers like a furnace. Noise and mist surround this oasis like a curtain.

Concentrating, I climbed down a slippery dead tree that the river had jammed in place. My right foot slipped on a slimy log in the river's center — I almost fell.

Icy water tore at my boot as I tested my weight on it. Reaching across the torrent and grabbing a limb, I inched my way up a mossy tree trunk that lay in the water like a giant's pick-up-stick.

I was across.

The remainder was fairly routine. I gestured that I was okay. Palmer signaled that I was off belay. Separated by the river, we began moving toward the waterfall where we would secure the rope between cottonwoods. Steep banks and constant spray made the going rough, but we had to stay near the river lest we tangle our rope.

We reached our positions at almost the same time. We had to use hand signals to communicate over the intense roar of the falls. I tethered a sling to a massive trunk, tied the rope to it and signaled Palmer. He was ready on his side and began taking up slack with a prusik knot. A few minutes later the rope was taut and anchored. At a time like this, one must trust his partner. He gave the go-ahead sign and I clipped a couple of carabiners (with reversed gates) between the rope and my harness.

The thunderous noise, which gave the river its name, increased as I traversed the falls. The spray chilled me, but I had something else on my mind: food. I hadn't eaten in hours.

The idea of the traverse sprang from a late-night conversation. A friend confronted me:

“What if you were outrageously outnumbered by an enemy, but you had an hour's head start and you and your team came to a high-angle water barrier? What good would all your fancy tactics do you?”

Admittedly, the scenario was a wild one, so my response was equally unconventional. I suggested a tyrolean traverse as a tactic. My friend thought it too difficult for the terrain he had in mind. Thus I felt like proving a point.

But make no mistake. Only those with a solid background in mountaineering, technical climbing or rescue techniques should undertake a tyrolean traverse. The accompanying series of photos and suggestions is intended for experienced adventurers.





Water Knot. Step 1: A length of one-inch tubular nylon webbing encircles trunk. An overhand knot (granny knot) is tied a few inches from one end.



Water Knot. Step 2: Other end of the webbing retraces the overhand knot from opposite direction.



Water Knot. Step 3: Continue retracing overhand knot from opposite direction.



Water Knot. Step 4: When retraining is complete, ends oppose each other.



Water Knot. Step 5: Finished product is a water knot, also called a ring bend. This strong and simple knot works best on webbing. Sling is used for the base on both sides of the traverse system.



Two carabiners are clipped to sling, gates are reversed for safety. Note locking 'biner in foreground.



Figure-Eight Knot. Step 1: Beginning five or six feet from rope's end, form a loop. Note standard 1/2-inch (11mm) rope pictured.



Figure-Eight Knot. Step 2: Form a double loop as if tying an overhand knot.



Figure-Eight Knot. Step 3: Reach through **twisted** double loop pulling single loop through.



Figure-Eight Knot. Step 4: Pull figure-eight knot tight and clip into carabiners.



Prusik-Knot System. Step 1: Six or eight feet of 1/4-inch nylon rope forms closed loop when ends are secured with water knot.



Prusik-Knot System. Step 2: Pull loop through itself.



Prusik-Knot System. Step 3: Repeat previous step. Pulled tight, prusik knot "grabs" climbing rope.



Prusik-Knot System. Step 4: Link prusik system to sling (around trunk) with carabiner. Note: Climbing rope's slack is removed by pulling it with prusik system.



Tyrolean traverse system is theoretically complete. Editor MacDougald puts theory to test.

PISTOLS WITH POLISH

Devel's Quality M-39 Conversion



Author tests Devel's custom conversion of S&W M-39.

by Gary Paul Johnston

SEVERAL years ago, when I was really getting into custom combat handguns, a friend, Jim Herringshaw, asked me if I knew Charles Kelsey. I told him the name didn't ring a bell. He said he would make it a point to *introduce* us, as he thought I would be interested in a gun Kelsey was working on.

Herringshaw was at the next gun show advertising his scope mount for the Auto Mag, Charlie with him. My positive impression of Chuck Kelsey was surpassed only by what he produced from the gun case he carried.

As I held the sleek little 9mm that had formerly been a Smith & Wesson Model 39, I looked back up at Kelsey and asked, "You did this?"

He smiled and nodded, looking like the proud father of a new baby.

"Let me explain a few things about it," he said, as I handed the pistol back to him.

The obvious changes, as I learned, were not merely cosmetic.

"What I've done," Kelsey began, "is retain the basic system of the Model 39 — it's a proven design. Essentially, what I'm doing is building a total, custom combat package around it."

"Total," I discovered, is the one word that best describes Chuck Kelsey and his gun.

Basically, the 15 modifications of the prototype gun I handled that day are those performed today, along with a few others. They are:

1. Inspection windows in each grip for ammo count.
2. Fluted slide to reduce weight.
3. New barrel-bushing design, reminiscent of Army AMU, for accuracy.
4. Roller-bearing-type pin through frame to improve function and assure that half-loaded mag will not hang up if released from gun.
5. Devel custom-spring package, made by Walter Wolff.
6. Ramp front sight, recessed for red or yellow insert.
7. Two types of mag finger rests for small or large hand.
8. Removal of tang spur in accord with owner's hand size.
9. Removal of hammer spur for no-snag concealment and top of hammer ser-



rated for cocking.

10. Magazine well funneled for rapid reloading.

11. Custom mag release for speed reloading.

12. Custom micarta grips.

13. Trigger guard extended at front and narrowed at side for two-hand hold and speed shooting.

14. Custom-made backstrap for better grip.

15. The gun is reduced in length, height, width and weight for maximum concealment, while still holding eight rounds.

There are additional standard modifications made, including other new parts, but Kelsey prefers to keep them secret.

As if I weren't impressed enough with all that, Kelsey showed me a simple cartridge gauge he designed and a prototype holster and magazine pouch he planned to have made by Gene DeSantis for Devel.

"Are you going to make these guns?" I asked him.

"Oh, yes," he assured me.

"When are you going to start?"

He chuckled, and then got serious. "I don't know. It's going to take a lot more work, and money, of course, and I'm not fully satisfied with the design yet."

"Oh?" I said, as I fondled the piece. "What's the problem?"

"Just dimensional stuff, actually. I believe that there's always room for im-

Full-House Model 39 with optional MMC (Miniature Machine Corporation) rear sight. Note lightening flutes in slide, see-through Micarta replacement grips (accompanying cut-out in chopped magazine) and trigger guard hook for non-shooting hand.

Photo: Jim Graves

provement. I have a few changes planned."

"Have you fired this one much?" I asked.

"That one's had just over 2,000 rounds through it."

"Any malfunctions?"

He shook his head, looking satisfied.

"What's the finish, nickel?"

"Right," he said, "it's a hard matte nickel — no problem there — I've decided that's the finish I'll use throughout."

Kelsey offered to let me test the gun as soon as he'd finished a second prototype. When I finally did shoot it, I found it to be everything he said it would be, even

after having fired several thousand rounds through it. It still looked new too.

I saw Chuck Kelsey regularly over the next couple of years, and he kept me updated on his progress and problems with getting the Devel into production. Kelsey was working full time with Euclid, Inc., and burning the other end of the candle over his pistol. He just wouldn't give up.

Today, the Devel Corporation is in full production, with Chuck Kelsey at the helm, in a small factory in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Kelsey, with two other master gunsmiths, Tom Hunter and Mark Brown, is filling orders from all over the United States for the latest version of the first prototype that is now on display in the office.

Kelsey wishes he could get his custom conversions out faster, but he won't sacrifice total quality. He shoots for a 60-day delivery on full-house conversions, and usually has them on their way on or before time.

The new full-house package is only slightly changed from the earlier design. The trigger-guard extension is improved and several options are offered, such as the MMC rear sight, ambidextrous safety and other customer modifications. Devel is also experimenting with the Nite Sight, a radioactive material similar to that used in the Low Light Level Sight on the M16, and may add it to its line of accessories.

Chuck Kelsey has added two new Devel conversions. He calls them the "Basic,"



Full-House 59 with MMC rear-sight option. Simplest way to differentiate models is to count screws in grip. M-59 has three, M-39 one.

and the "Function and Reliability" packages. The Basic is the full-house conversion minus flutes in the slide, window grips, custom backstrap, trigger guard and magazine release. It is, otherwise, identical to the full-tilt gun, especially inside where it counts, and at far less than full-house cost. The Basic will retail at \$255 plus the customer's Model 39, as compared to \$455 for the full-house job. The Basic is my favorite.

The Function and Reliability package is the Model 39 with most of the Devel interior modifications, such as the match-type barrel-bushing system, the Wolff spring package, the Devel extractor/slide stop modifications and the funneled magazine well. This conversion is topped off with the Devel matte-nickel finish, and will retail for \$145.

When I first went to see the Devel factory, I was impressed with three things: the fact that one could almost eat off the floor, the classical music piped throughout the building and the fortune spent on machinery used to make the conversions. I got the grand tour, and a good look at all Devel has to offer. Kelsey has perfected a full-house conversion of the Smith & Wesson Model 59. (See Ken Hackathorn's companion piece.) It is one superb combat gun. By now, Kelsey will also have completed "Basic" and "Function and Reliability" versions of the Model 59 conversion.

Ken Hackathorn will also test and evaluate another Devel conversion just off the drawing board in Combat Pistolcraft. I promised Kelsey I would not talk about it here, but I have already ordered one. I also promised Kelsey I would not mention future Devel projects, but when they are undertaken, the handgun world will be heading for new horizons.

What Kelsey will allow me to mention is the new cartridge he has designed and hopes to produce this year in cooperation with one of the biggest names in shooting. Here again, I cannot give all the details, except to say that it will be a brand new 9mm round which will be compatible with all existing and future Devel 9mm conversions.

With the new round, a new barrel and recoil spring will be installed, and will be interchangeable, thus allowing 9mm parabellum to be fired for practice, and the 9mm Devel Magnum to be used for duty, if desired. Velocities of 1,700 are envisioned for the new round. While I am not head-over-heels in love with the 9mm as the answer to a policeman's prayers, Devel's 9mm magnum concept does impress me, and I am anxious to test it.

I am greatly impressed with the Devel conversions and the quality Charles Kelsey has fought to keep — a fight he has won. The gun provides as much concealment, as much firepower and as high a

quality/reliability factor as any I have ever seen, and I have seen a few. Kelsey designed conversion packages for different demands and pocketbooks, but, as he explains it, they may not be for the average guy or even the average cop. They are designed for special work — for the man in unusual, dangerous situations who demands the best. Kelsey has filled orders for many such men in various governmental agencies and undercover operations.

Devel offers a complete line of concealment holsters for its guns, from \$18.50 up, along with custom mag pouches and belts. They are of Gene DeSantis' design and manufacture, and are of the highest quality. One gets a complete holster/pouch/belt set with the full-house conversion, along with two spare magazines — and with all conversions one gets a little gauge to measure the case length and extractor-groove depth of every round carried on duty.

"That's the most important part of all," says Kelsey. "With the quality control you see in some of the ammo made today, a guy has got to check his duty rounds to make sure they'll function, for total reliability."

There's that word, "total," again — but then "total" is Chuck Kelsey's middle name.

For a color brochure send \$2 to Devel Corp., Dept. SOF, 3441 W. Brainard Rd., Cleveland, OH 44122.

Devel's Reliable M-59

by Ken Hackathorn

THE Devel Corporation is well known for its fine-quality custom-modified Smith & Wesson Model 39 auto pistols. Over the past couple of years, I have seen and fired a number of Devel conversions. While I am less than enchanted with the 9x19 parabellum cartridge for self-defense use, many think it ideal.

Realists must recognize that many individuals are forced to use the 9mmP for reasons of regulation and ammunition economy, as well as personal choice. Arguments over which pistol cartridge is best suited for self-defense have been going on for ages, and we will not belabor the point here. Considering that most small concealable sidearms compromise power for ease of concealment, the fact that one can provide a pistol as small as the Devel and still offer the 9x19 round is of interest. In a fighting pistol, the 9x19 is as small as I wish to go.

Some years ago, we were excited about the Star BKS in 9x19. It was small, flat and easy to use — not much larger than the .380, but with the punch of the parabellum round. But time proved that the Star was made of poor materials and failed to hold up. Since those days, a number of designs have come and gone. The latest ray of hope is the Heckler & Koch PSP. Delivery of these new pistols from H&K seems to be years away for U.S. customers. While a positive step forward in design, the PSP has its own problems.

So when Charles Kelsey told me that he and his associates at Devel had a new Devel package to offer, I invited him down to our range to give the pistol a workout. Kelsey turned up with Tom Hunter, one of the production technicians at Devel, a thousand rounds of S&W 115 JHP ammo and a Devel version of the Smith & Wesson M-59 auto pistol.

Over the past several years, I have developed a rather low opinion of the S&W M-59. Functional failures were so common with this pistol that I had completely given up on it. Occasionally, someone would tell me that they had one that worked every time, in which case I recommended that they keep it forever, since they obviously had a good one.

I knew that if Kelsey and the boys at Devel had decided to work on the M-59, they had set out to solve the reliability
NOVEMBER/80



Rick Miller with 40-shot test target. Note one left hit from double-action transition. Miller proved Devel M-59's fast target recovery.



Standard P-35 Browning 14-shot 9x19 in-J. Hoag dress (right), Devel M-59 (left). Latter shows reduced size, bulk.

problems. As we found out, the test pistol showed they had done their homework. It never missed a lick.

Unlike many other "Combat Conversions" that simply chop and channel the standard service auto to a pocket-size blaster, the Devel is engineered to work properly. When structural changes are made in one area, other functional tolerances must be adjusted correctly. Contact surfaces critical to pistol function are mated and fitted with detailed precision.

Kelsey and his men go about their work as if they are building a fine-tuned engine. The barrel is fitted with precision to the barrel bushing that is mounted permanently to the slide, a concept designed to allow plenty of tolerance while the slide is moving in and out of battery, yet locking with uniformity when closing to the locked-breech position. Sounds easy, but it must be perfect. Otherwise, you have either a pistol that is very accurate and not reliable, or one that works every time, but won't group in a pie pan at 10 yards.

Most smiths selling cut-down S&W conversions take the stand that sloppy tolerances guarantee reliability and that accuracy is not required in a close-range combat pistol. But now Devel has provided both reliable functioning and an accurate pistol that will usually outshoot the full-size service Model 39/59.

After the standard operations of shortening barrel and slide on the pistol, barrel length is 3½ inches. Due to the high intensity of the 9x19 cartridge, the shortened barrel does not seem to affect velocity as much as most people believe. The short front end of the Devel aids concealment. The butt is shortened to give an overall height of 5-1/16 inches. This provides easy concealed carry even for small people.

Shortening the grip does reduce the pistol's magazine capacity, but in the Devel M-59 conversion the big news is that the pistol still holds 14 rounds of 9x19 P ammo — a serious amount of firepower for a pistol the size and bulk of the common 2-inch .38 Special bellygun, yet with the capacity of the P-35 Browning.

Ammo and Accessories

If you feel that ammo resupply is going to prove difficult in your line of work and you *must carry it all with you*, then the Devel M-59 with full 14-shot load capacity and two spare magazines of 13 rounds each in your belt pouch (a total of 40 rounds) has to be the answer.

In order to make the shortened grip comfortable for all hand sizes, Devel offers two styles of magazine base plates. The original is much like the Beretta finger-grip style that works best for those with small to average-size hands. Shooters with large hands can use the second style. It is relieved somewhat at the bottom to allow a lower little-finger position.

I prefer the second type and find a more comfortable grasp of the weapon possible. Other Devel modifications include dehorning the hammer and shortening the frame-grip spur, beveling the magazine well, installing a red or yellow insert-ramp front sight and smoothing the action.

The extractor— curing a basic problem.

One of the touchiest details of the internal work done on the Devel conversions is the extractor work. Kelsey won't talk about most of the work he does to make these S&W autos first-class, but he did describe the extractor problem. Basic problems with the reliability of the pistol have to do with the variance in 9X19 cartridge-rim size, angle and depth. Each country and manufacturer seems to have its own specifications.

As a result, the grip on the rim of the case in the chamber must be firm and pull the spent case from the chamber sharply to position it for the ejector. Here Smith & Wesson made their gravest error in the M-39/59 design. Early M-39 autos had a wide, strong extractor that hardly ever failed. S&W changed to a smaller, cheaper extractor, saying it was better than the original and that the early type was prone to break — an excuse to justify a production short cut.

So, with the variance in 9X19 cartridge rims, the new design extractor quite often fails and slips over the rim, leaving the fired case in the chamber. Spring tension on the extractor is critical and if one can depress the extractor on his pistol with ease, then trouble may be around the corner. This production problem has hurt S&W's auto-pistol reputation more than anything else. Note also that the new 559 series of S&W service autos uses a version of the Walther P-38 extractor. It has a much larger engaging surface plus more positive spring tension.

With the Devel conversion, extractors are carefully fitted and a custom spring is used to apply correct tension on the extractor. This spring, as well as all other critical ones in the pistols, is designed by Walt Wolff for the special stress that these custom pistols require.

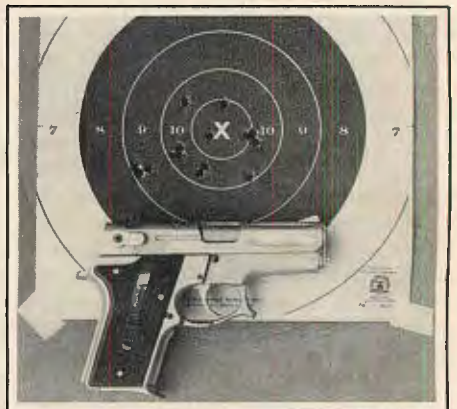
Here we find Devel's excellence in solving problems. One came up when modifying the M-59 magazine, since the feed strength and follower angle had to be changed. Wolff provided a magazine spring that solved the problem and yet permitted the capacity to be held at 13 rounds.

Full-house Extras

On the full-house Devel conversion, a number of other items are included in the package: an ambidextrous safety, two spare magazines mated to the pistol, choice of holster style complete with belt and magazine pouch, and a cartridge



Standard self-defense autos. From top left, Hoag P-35, S&W standard issue auto, center (left to right), Colt .45 Commander, Devel M-39. Bottom, Devel M-59 conversion.



Devel M-59 pistol with 25-yard target fired with S&W 115 JHP ammo. Excellent accuracy for small, concealable pistol.



gauge for checking ammo for correct overall length and extractor groove depth.

Other extras include milling cuts on the slide to reduce overall weight, a hooked trigger guard to assist in two-handed shooting, a custom backstrap that provides an excellent index of the pistol in the hand in relation to pointing the pistol on target and the fancy touch of custom-made micarta grips with windows to visually check the rounds in the magazine.

All Devel pistols are finished in an attractive matte nickel that provides a hard-wearing nonreflective surface. Price for the full-house Devel M-59 (with the customer supplying the pistol) is \$495. Considering the work and extras, that isn't bad.

But since the average cop or operative regards his sidearm as only a tool, this price may be too high to consider. For this reason the Devel Corp. has come up with their basic Devel conversion. All size-reducing modifications and functional changes are made, but the cosmetic extras are left out and spare magazines and

leather deleted. If the professional wants a no-nonsense sidearm, the basic Devel package is the answer. Cost for the basic M-59 Devel is \$295 with customer-supplied pistol. It does the job, and the ones I have tested really perform.

Range Workout

Our range session was most impressive. Rick Miller, "IPSC A-Class" shootist, helped me give the pistol a real workout. Like me, he loves to shoot up other folks' ammo. We did our best to put the pistol through a combat pistol's paces. We tested various types of 9X19 ammo and had good results, but nothing shot as well as the Smith & Wesson 115 JHP ammo. My Jim Hoag-tuned P-35 was used for comparison, and the Devel easily turned out groups as good and usually better. I started the firing session by testing the Devel M-59 from prone at 25 meters, shooting at an NRA 25-yard pistol target.

Eleven rounds went into the 10-ring, with a nice cloverleaf in the nine ring at eight o'clock. Not bad for a bellygun.

Even giving the "Devel" its just dues, I must admit that double-action autos are not my idea of the answer to self-defense sidearms. The system can be mastered if you want to practice and stick with the determination necessary for good control. At longer ranges (15 yards and further) I prefer to thumb the hammer back with the thumb of my left hand as the pistol comes up in the Weaver Stance. This means speed is not compromised as much as thumb cocking with the strong hand, and my first critical shot is fired from single action.

The individuals using the M-59 Devel were impressed with how well the reduced-size pistol handled and shot. Rick Miller did some really surprising speed work from concealment using Kelsey's DeSantis holster and magazine pouch. When firing the Survival Index, his groups were well-centered with only the first shot a little low to the left from the double-action transition.

Toward the end of the range session we decided to test the Devel M-59 for control and speed accuracy. We ended up with a real display of firepower. Using a standard IPSC silhouette and scoring the option ring, I stood at the seven-yard line. I put 40 rounds in the V-ring in a time of 16.5 seconds. That was with a full pistol of 14 rounds and two spare 13-round magazines in my belt pouch. If large magazine capacities keep you from being impressed with that show of firepower, think about that kind of control from a handgun as easy to conceal as the Colt Detective Special and less bulky than the S&W M-19 2½-inch Combat Mag.

Conclusion

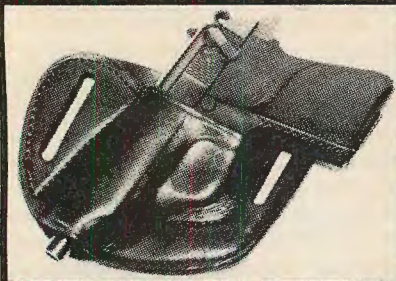
Overall, I am convinced that Devel offers the best of the 9X19mm breed of serious concealable sidearms. For their brochure, send \$2 to: Devel Corp., Dept. SOF, 3441 W. Brainard Rd., Cleveland, OH 44122.

After years of grumbling from people like me, Charlie Kelsey is now taking a look at the Colt .45 pistol. He has done some prototype work on a lightweight Commander and the result is a top-notch carry pistol. The demand for full-size combat-modified .45 autos is at an all-time high. With Devel's quality, a version of the Colt Government *tuned for practical shooting* should prove a real winner. I'm waiting in the wings for his next move in this direction and will evaluate the .45 in a later article. Right now the Devel Corp. is catching up on the M-59 project and orders. Once this project is smoothed out, the next chapter in the Devel story will unfold.



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COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 32

that "instinct shooting" makes it easier to hit your target from the one-hand gunman's crouch.

We must look seriously at point shooting to consider its practical worth.

To those who argue that one hand is faster than two, I must reply that they have never seen any of the "New Technique" boys really shoot. For all practical purposes, speed is no different, given shooters of equal skill levels.

As to the use of sights, I know that for me the flash-sight picture from eye-level shooting is very fast and gives nearly perfect shot placement. Firing from hip-level is not really quicker if you slow down to insure the correct deflection for a sure hit — any of the good point shooters will have a couple of bad shots out of five or six draws.

Real-life situations do not allow time for warm-up draws or practice shots. If one does not practice with some regularity, even the pro may find that his point shooting is less than satisfactory.

For best results, total body coordination must be mastered. At the close ranges where point shooting becomes justified, the handgun can be held at belt-level, close to the body, and fired with good results for distances out to six feet. When fighting hand-to-hand with an armed adversary, the pistol must be held in close to prevent the opponent from grasping or deflecting the weapon. For searching out or guarding prisoners, the weapon must be held in close for security and safety.

Practice for this type of shooting should be done at ranges of one to six feet. For greater distances, go to two-hand eye-level shooting for more precise shot placement. You can practice this technique while dry firing and carefully watching your body position in a full-length mirror.

Most practitioners of the one-hand point-shooting technique still argue that theirs is the best way to go, but I have tested such people with a simple shooting drill:

I set up a series of silhouette targets at varying heights and distances out to seven yards, making sure that some of the silhouettes are at ground level and some eight to nine feet in height. Higher targets can be attached to the tops of target frames. (Obviously targets are not usually eight to 10 feet tall in real life, but this serves to simulate someone standing on a higher level than the shooter.) All too often, shootouts take place on stairways, loading docks, porches and roof tops. High targets reflect the realistic problems encountered on the street, instead of on a level, sure-footed range.

Now I give the shooter 1.5 seconds to draw and fire one shot at each target as

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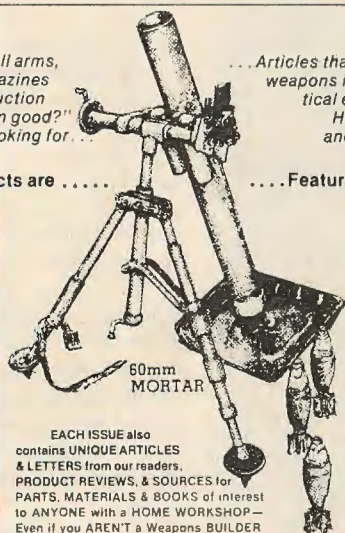
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the proper one is called out. I follow this with two shots per signal in the same time. The belt-level point shooters will print their shots nicely on normal-height silhouettes, but will not be able to get K-zone hits repeatedly on high or low targets, because the low-point, hip-level shooting naturally places the shots at the same level as the shooter's gun. If your target or adversary is on the same even ground, then the shots will usually strike the lower mid-section around belly-button level. The body gun-mount just naturally aligns to this point.

Good hits at ranges of five yards and less can be fairly consistently achieved by anyone who stays in practice. The real problem is that a hit in the low abdominal area does not incapacitate. All you do with a gut shot is cause a loss of body fluids from the hole punched through the intestines and lower organs. Loss of body fluids will cause the injured person to go into shock, but not instantaneously. We're after a sudden, disabling blow.

Now, the Bureau is fond of telling police students that a gut shot will cause their opponent to double over and not shoot back. Sounds good, but it does not happen that way in real life. The Bureau also argues that a shot striking the pelvis will cause an opponent to spin to one side and go down quickly. This is more likely, but again real encounters have shown this is not always the case.

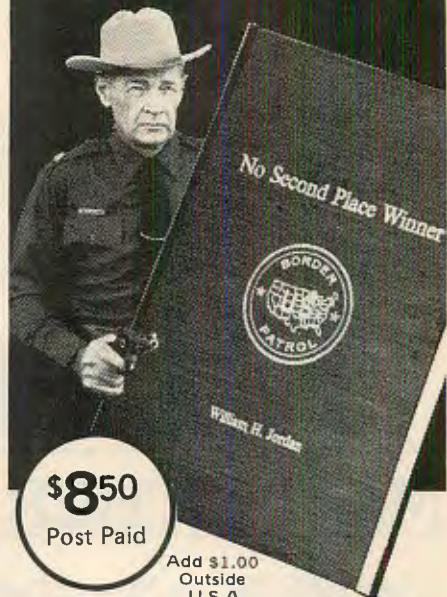
Ask the medical examiners. Far too many felons hit in the low mid-section take a number of rounds and keep shooting. We all know of cases in which the police officer fires at his opponent and gets a couple of hits, but is either wounded or killed by the felon's return fire. How often do we hear someone complain that if the lawman had had a Magnum or big-bore sidearm, he might not have been killed?

Rarely do we hear of poor shot placement by the officer as a cause of his injuries.

A .22 will do a nice job if delivered to the eye socket or ear canal. It is not worth a darn delivered to almost any other part of the human anatomy. So long as the majority of American policemen are forced to defend themselves with the .38 Special cartridge, they should be taught to shoot for those areas that will insure maximum incapacitating effect. After many years' use of the one-hand, low-level gunman's crouch, evidence shows that its low-level hit potential makes it next to worthless. Those who base their training concepts upon tradition may find it difficult to admit this fact.

They should note one of the few ballistic research programs that they helped promote. The Law Enforcement Standard Laboratories of the National Bureau of Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, were asked to study the relative incapacitation index of various handgun cartridges. Their results were quite con-

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troversial. They also studied the use of a "Computer Man." All medical people involved were asked to assign values to various hits on the human anatomy that would incapacitate a subject with one round. They all agreed that the area for maximum incapacitation is in the torso at armpit level — the sternum.

Worrying about which technique is slower will do little good if you deliver a couple of fast shots to the mid-section, only to have your opponent get mad and shoot you in the eye with his .25 Titan Tiger. It's better to use one technique that works for everything — from three to 30 yards. Make your shots sure and place them right in the sternum.

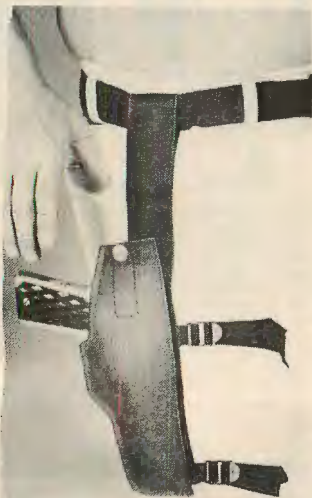
Back in 1974, Jeff Cooper wrote a super article entitled "Steady On," for *Guns & Ammo Annual*. The closing paragraph of this short treatise on shooting positions gave a classic statement of the facts:

"But concentrate on a quick, solid, comfortable Weaver Stance, unless you are of the opposition. If so, shoot one-handed and at belt level, and hold your piece low and around to the right. This way all will end well."

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TERRAIN

Continued from page 12

for both the undercover man who needs clandestine weaponry and the collector who has an interest in the offbeat. A.S.P. takes a standard felt-tip pen and disassembles it; then using the bottom section as a sheath, mounts a triangular blade running 2½ inches long inside the pen's cap. Externally, it's still a pen. But instead of writing your name with it, you can leave your mark — if you have to. Reasonably priced, the pen-knife retails for \$25. Quality is good and the A.S.P. name is one that can be trusted.

TWO companies make mini-revolvers these days. The original from North American Arms is strong in quality and appeal. The newcomer is a decent little gun as well — the Freedom Arms mini-revolver. Now, a .22 Long Rifle or .22 Short is hardly the optimum defense caliber, especially when fired from a one-inch barrel at the end of a gun so small it is hard to hold onto.

Yet, for some applications, a mini-revolver is useful and decidedly popular. The Freedom Arms Mini I have been fooling with lately is stainless steel with a one-inch rifled barrel, has a tapered look and a reasonably decent blade front sight. No rear sight, but lining up on the hammer when cocked suffices. I've obtained some amazingly accurate results with the Freedom Mini. Using CCI's .22 LR hollowpoints — wishful thinking, I admit — at 21 feet with a bizarre two-hand hold, all four rounds wound up in the black on a standard B-16 pistol target: one, a bull's-eye.

Why four rounds instead of five? (A single-action revolver, the empty chamber idea carries over from the Colt Single Action Army.) The Freedom Mini has a half-cock notch, but despite the marginal advantage of a fifth round, the empty chamber and fully lowered hammer are better bets. This Freedom Arms Mini was fitted with a high-quality stainless neck chain, allowing the gun to be carried under a shirt, slung from a belt loop into a pocket like a ring of keys, or even carried in a vest.

Avoid carrying a mini-revolver of any kind as primary ordnance under anything but the most bizarre circumstances. But if you must, the Freedom Arms Mini I recently tested is of good, solid quality and might serve as a last-ditch back-up gun for more potent ordnance. Freedom Arms Minis can be found in most gunshops or had from the factory with the neck chain — a nice addition. Suggested retail in the U.S. is around \$130. For more information write Freedom Arms, Dept. SOF, Freedom, WY 83120, U.S.A.



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THE TIE

Continued from page 52

He leaned forward and spoke very slowly while Haji translated each word as he said it: "I think the Russians are cowards; I call them cowards because they do not fight like men, against men, but they fight women and children. They will not come out and fight the Mujahideen as men will fight!"

His statement brought a clattering of approval from the others and he smiled at his men, then continued: "They don't realize, the world doesn't realize, that when a Mujahideen is killed in a holy war he is immortal, *Shaheed*, and that he is always replaced by 10 others. We all believe, we know, we are already dead until we have victory."

When I asked the Mului how many men he really had in his command he smiled and first told Haji that many of the Afghans in Peshawar lie to impress Western journalists, who seem to believe everything they are told, then said: "I have 7,000 men fighting in Afghanistan. Of these, only half are fighting on any day. I am here [in the tribal area] to recruit more men. But we don't have the food and supplies we need. So we send only what we can into Afghanistan. If we could equip them, we could raise our number to 15,000 in two weeks. But we don't have the arms. As we capture more weapons we add more men. Our strength is growing every day."

I asked him to explain why the Afghans do not want the help of professional soldiers who could teach them better ways to fight the Russians and even help them fight, referring to their refusal to accept the help of SOFers.

"We need guns, not men."

"We need guns for our people, not more men to fight," he explained, then added, "There are some men, professional soldiers, who could teach us things about modern warfare, things we don't know. But it would be very difficult for them and very bad for Islam if they were captured. I am sure you can see the problems. Now we are trying to get the Western powers to help us in our war. If these men come and it is discovered they are here, how would the world react?"

Another point, explained by Haji in more detail, was that in a holy war the help of others (in the actual fighting) who are not Moslem has to be weighed very carefully. They all agreed, however, it was something to consider.

The remainder of the evening was spent going over military operations and weapons before we turned our attention to our own trip into Afghanistan and an effort to recover some of the new rounds and the tube weapon to take to the SOF

office in Boulder, Colo., for testing. After the commander had agreed to return the next morning for another visit, James and I went for a walk in the garden while our bodyguards carefully watched us to insure that no bandits from outside the wall were able to capture a valuable prize. The Russians are reported to have offered a reward for any Western journalist captured wearing Afghan clothing. We agreed on one point about the Mului — he talked like a nice guy but one look at his eyes was enough to convince both of us we were glad we were on his side.



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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU GO TO AFGHANISTAN

by Galen L. Geer

THIS is it, the big one — a shot at Ivan himself! More than a few freelance mercs and SOFers view the war in Afghanistan as one they want to jump into — sink or swim — win or lose.

While their intentions are great and a few might even get to bust caps on the Russians, most who try to become involved in the Afghan war are going to be disappointed — that is, if they get out alive.

In the past two issues of SOF we've pointed out that the Afghan war is a complex one between the defenders of the Islamic faith and Soviet Russia. The fact that a highly skilled individual volunteers his services to the rebel groups in Pakistan, with the aim of fighting for them in Afghanistan, is no guarantee he will be accepted. How many mercs are willing to receive their last rites before they go into battle? All the Mujahideen have! That small detail, however, is one of the many reasons why few, if any, mercs will ever fight in Afghanistan.

Word filtering back to the SOF office, however, is that some have been contacted about working in Afghanistan. Others, dedicated to stopping the Russians, even in a small way, are making their way into the area to fight. So, I'll briefly discuss what you can expect to find and how you might go about making contact with someone who might be interested in your services.

First, let's assume you are contacted by someone who claims to be representing one of the Islamic groups. A red warning flag should go up as soon as he starts talking to you. Assume the worst — the Soviets would love to have a few mercs to put on trial in front of the world to substantiate their claim that they are fighting a "war against bandits." Also, it would help

them discredit the Islamic fronts trying to liberate their home from the Russians.

So, if you are contacted, initiate a thorough, but discreet, background check. If your contact is representing one of the Islamic countries, you shouldn't have problems getting the info you need.

Next, make sure you know where you are going to be operating. Don't accept a job that puts you in the heart of Afghanistan. There is no way you can escape if you are in that deep! Another point to consider: the Afghans have an endless supply of fighting men. One more gun is not going to make any difference. If you are hired for anything other than a training mission, start asking serious questions.

In addition, whether going over on your own to offer your services or being hired to go, you will not need to equip yourself for a war such as you might have fought in Africa, South America or Asia. There's a shopping list at the end of this article: follow it.

If you go on your own, getting into Pakistan is going to require a good cover. The Pakistanis don't like mercs wandering around their country. I am not going to jeopardize the covers of those few who might now be there by giving examples — but use your imagination.

After clearing customs in Pakistan, your next move is to drop out of sight. To travel in Pakistan on Pakistan International Airlines you've got to show your passport and ID. So use trains, busses, taxis, etc. to get from your point of entry to Peshawar where the Islamic groups are headquartered.

Don't go to the most expensive hotel in Peshawar (the Inter-Con), stick with the moderate ones. Don't walk around wearing your cammies (you shouldn't have them with you anyway). You've got to blend in with the tourists. Wear brown, tan, light green — earth colors. They are hard to spot in a crowd.

Drawing a map of Peshawar's back streets is impossible, so your best bet

is to ask a taxi driver to take you to the groups. Plan to visit one in the morning and another in the afternoon.

When you present your request to join their group, have enough material in your hands to support your claims of experience. Don't leave your resume lying around in their offices. That is a one-way ticket to the slammer!

If you go back through the issues of SOF that cover our own Afghan trip, you'll get a good picture of what to expect in the way of living conditions, food, etc. The following is a list of approximate per diem living expenses in Pakistan.

Hotel \$20-30 per day
Meals \$5-10 per day
Taxi fares (local) \$2-5 per trip \$4 per hour
Ruckshaw taxi fares
(three-wheeled scooter types) \$.50 per trip
Misc. expenses, including tips \$10-15 per day

When you start planning your trip you'll need a packing list to go by. Here's what we've prepared at SOF:

ITEMS FOR USE/WEAR IN PAKISTAN

Socks, three pairs, lightweight for wearing with casual shoes.

Shoes, comfortable ones for walking city streets.

Underwear, no less than three pairs.

Pants, three casual pairs.

Shirts, three for wear in Pakistan, lightweight and earth-colored.

Personal health-care items as needed.

Rain coat or light wind breaker.

International vaccine record (check with your MD before leaving for shots and what medical supplies you'll need for malaria, etc.)

Business cards for your cover, papers to support it, etc.

INSIDE AFGHANISTAN

Top-quality hiking boots.

Two to four pairs of hiking socks.

Three pairs underwear.

Combat first-aid kit, including *your own* battle dressing.

High-protein munchy bars you can carry easily.

Small flashlight with red and green filters.

Good quality sunglasses for desert wear.

Foot powder.

Space blanket.

Down jacket for wear in mountains at night.

Good poncho.

The *best* small compass you can find.

Carrying pouch for compass, passport, etc., that fits inside your shirt.

You'll notice we haven't listed clothing for Afghanistan. You'll have to buy it in Peshawar and dress like an Afghan; that'll set you back another \$50. Weapons, including knives, are not listed. You'll have to pick them up in Darra from the Pathans. Be prepared to shell out (depending on what you want) up to \$800 for your personal arms unless you want only hand weapons. Then you're looking at about \$300 for the handgun, holster, ammo and knife.

Don't expect the Afghans to supply you with arms or other equipment. You'll have to obtain them on your own. One last point: *unless* you are working under contract with one of the Islamic countries or an organization supporting the Afghans' struggle, you will not be paid for your efforts — your reward will be satisfaction if you do manage to get in, fight for three months and get out alive.



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FLAK
 Continued from page 8

CHEERS FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC ...

Sirs:
 I am your *Soldier of Fortune* reader here in Indonesia since your December 1979 issue. And how glad I am to discover *Soldier of Fortune*, a very best magazine that I've been dreaming of.

I like most of all your good articles, especially about the Vietnam War. They were indeed interesting because I was there in Vietnam as Indonesia United Nation ICCS troop before the damned North Vietnam invasion — that's why I never trust commies.

Keep up your good work and Bravo!
 My best regards to all of Vietnam vets.
 Sincerely,
 U. Lukito
 Indonesia Marine Corps
 Jakarta, Indonesia

VESTED INTERESTS ...

Sirs:
 I thoroughly enjoyed Ken Pence's "A Matter of Life" (SOF, July '80). I am a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and am presently a uniformed member of the City of Edmonton Police Department.

I have been wearing a protective vest for about one year. I purchased a Second Chance vest and it gives me Level II protection. I find it quite comfortable. Not only does it make me feel safer, but I know it makes my wife feel 100 percent better. She seems to worry a lot less now that I wear a vest.

I have some points that other vest wearers might find helpful:

1. Before putting on a T-shirt, I rub baby powder over my chest. It absorbs sweat and leaves me smelling real nice.
2. I wear a V-neck T-shirt. This adds to the vest's coolness and helps concealability.

3. I extended the velcro straps on the fastening straps of the vest. This makes the vest fit closer to my body, prevents the vest from riding up and adds to concealability.

4. I don't advertise the fact that I wear a vest. If fellow officers know, that is fine, but criminals need not know. That edge could keep us alive.

Please print more articles on police equipment. Keep up the great work.
 Name Withheld
 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

SNATCHING AT STRAWS ...

Sirs:
 I agree with almost everything Jim Morris said in "The Snatch That Failed" (SOF, August '80), but he made one error. The helicopters used were not Marine

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Corps choppers. From everything I have read and heard they were Navy — much like our Marine CH-53s, but a different model used for mine-clearing operations. One thing that Morris said was very true: the Marines are forced to use outdated, unreliable equipment because of lack of funds. I know this is true because I am a Marine.

I am proud and honored to be a Marine and just as proud of the history that Marines before me have made. The challenges of the future are many and great, and the new breed will live up to the legacy that countless others have molded. We will face up to and overcome these challenges.

Semper Fi,
Sgt. James R. Crumbley
APO, Miami, Florida

We have received several letters concerning Jim Morris' editorial but FLAK space limits us to printing only one. Other readers blamed maintenance for the mission failure or took us to task for vilifying Marine aviation, completely missing Morris' point — the Marines need better equipment to get the job done. — The Eds.

HOW ABOUT A "HOW TO" ...

Sirs:

I have recently been introduced to your magazine and would like to say that I've never found a more fascinating, gut-level, to-the-point piece of literary material. The fact that SOF's staff are "goers and doers," as well as skilled writers, impresses the hell out of me.

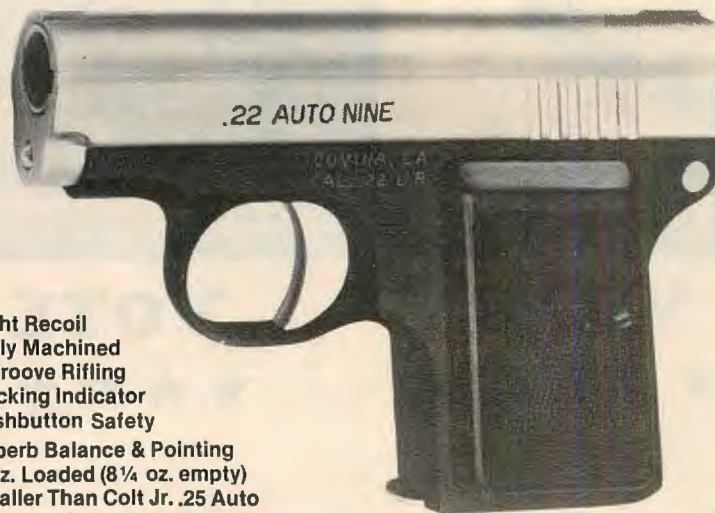
I am wondering about the possibility of SOF publishing articles that are not only factually informative, but also detailed in terms of methods and practice. Some potential topics could be: how to find medicinal herbs, how to construct traps and snares, tips on hunting and fishing, survivalist techniques from a military standpoint, e.g. enemy harassment, silent weapons like the bow and crossbow, booby traps and necessities such as water purification and identification of plants, roots and berries common to the U.S.

Many SOF advertisements deal with the subjects mentioned above, but I find it hard to trust an individual whose main interest is money. That's why I brought the matter of "how-to" articles to your attention. It's easier for me, as a reader, to accept suggestions, criticism and advice from the SOF staff, because I know they're speaking from experience, not just to be heard or to make money.

Respectfully,
Mark Lopsey
Glendive, Montana

As luck would have it, we have a "how-to" piece in this issue. Crossing Thunder River explains how to accomplish a tyrolean traverse across a waterfall or rapids. In a forthcoming issue you will

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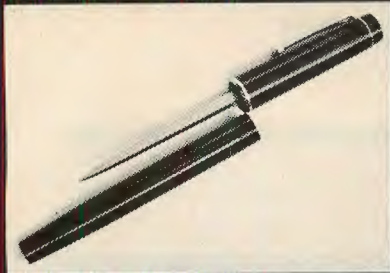
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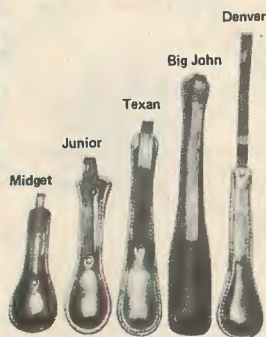
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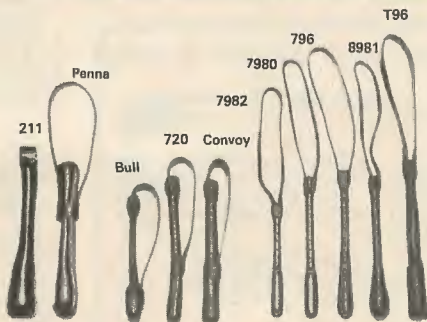
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find a piece on survival in the Mojave Desert. — The Eds.

SYMBIOSIS IN THE DESERT . . .

Sirs:

As a resident of 29 Palms, Calif., home of the world's largest Marine Corps Base, I really enjoyed your article, "Hot Steel on Target," (SOF, August '80). Windows rattle and stucco cracks when the heavy stuff starts to come down, but as of yet I have heard only one complaint from local citizens: from a man and his son that were target shooting near the base during an exercise. It seems that some carrier-based Navy Skyhawks got way off target and dropped some heavy-duty stuff near him and his son. Really pissed him off. Raised a lot of hell with the Navy, but the incident was soon forgotten. Desert people are very tolerant. You have to be to live here and think it's paradise.

We think it's great to have the Marines practice in our back yard. It's the sound of America getting ready to kick ass if the time should come. The multi-million-dollar payroll that gets spent in town also helps still complaints about noise and tremors. We need them, and to a certain degree they need us — sort of a symbiosis in the desert.

This is a great place to live if you are a military buff or shooter. It's not unusual to find a pile of once-fired .223 or .45 auto cases that some gyrene ripped off from the base for local target practice. I once watched a Marine pop off several hundred rounds from an M16 and then walk off and leave the brass. It took six months to wipe the smile off my face.

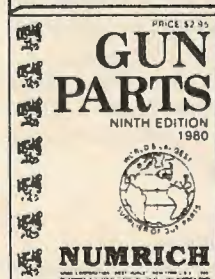
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AIM LOW NEXT TIME

by Tony Bliss

ANTI-Vietnamese guerrillas had the recent misfortune of blowing an ambush aimed at zapping left-wing Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett.

Burchett and an Australian film crew making a documentary on his life were passengers in a van that came under heavy automatic-weapons fire on Highway 5 about 42 miles north-west of Phnom Penh.

The Cambodian driver, who took rounds through the cheeks and in the back and shoulder, was the only casualty. His blood was streaming over Burchett when he and his companions hit the floor. The wounded driver managed to hold onto the wheel, get the vehicle out of the killing zone and maneuver it a mile down the road to a Vietnamese outpost.

"I don't want to sound overdramatic," Burchett told United Press International, "but that ambush was probably intended for me."

Wilfred Burchett is also known as Wellfed Bullshit by Western journalists because of his long-time prolific espousal of all things communist — especially Vietnamese and North Korean communists. He has written at least 16 books with titles like: *Vietnam Will Win*, *Vietnam North: A First-hand Report* and *Inside Story of the Guerrilla War*.

To Burchett: we're sorry about that. And to the guerrillas: aim low and keep your bursts short.



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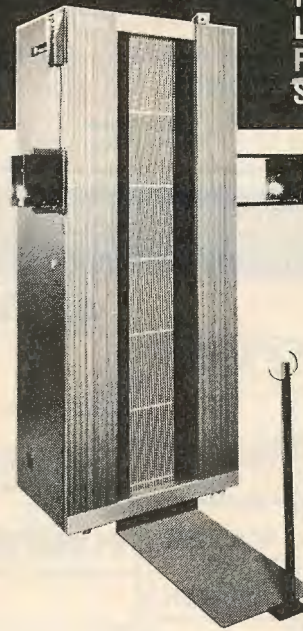
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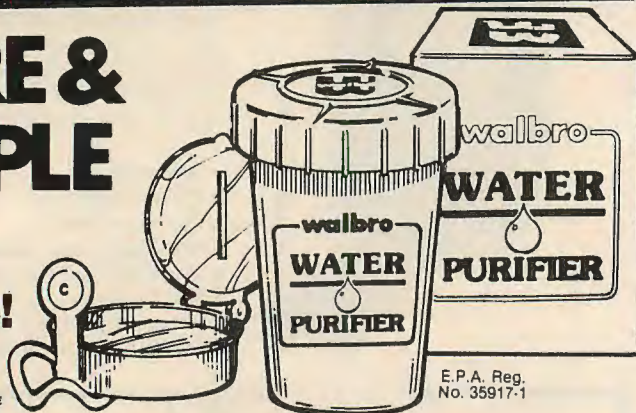
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Continued from page 23

brought into the country and permanent quarters for Soviet officers and troops are under construction at major Soviet bases.

There are also numerous construction projects going on of a more military nature. The Soviets are building two permanent bridges across the Amu Darya River separating Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. These will replace pontoon bridges used in the 1979 invasion. Key Afghan airfields are being upgraded and the helicopter gunship maintenance facility at Kabul Airport is being enlarged. The Russians are building another gunship repair facility at Bagram Air Force Base.

In addition to the permanent facilities the Russians are rushing to get up, more and more new types of equipment are showing up. The following items of Soviet equipment — some new, some being evaluated for the first time under combat conditions — have been detected in Afghanistan: new armored personnel carriers and variants of known models; new models of multiple-rocket-launcher systems; new automatic mortars; new fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft; new assault rifles; a new battle-management computer system; self-propelled artillery; anti-personnel artillery shells; armored mine-laying vehicles; sophisticated mine-clearing equipment and automatic grenade launchers.

ISRAEL'S GOT THE SPIRIT ...

Forwarded from Jeff Cooper at the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) was an interesting quote, lending insight into Israeli attitudes towards shooting:

"It is against the law to conduct practical shooting competition in Israel. So we are going to change the law!"

As Jeff said in the I.P.S.C. Bulletin which published the notice: "Now that is the spirit!"

BALUCHISTAN STILL SOVIET GOAL ...

One of the most overlooked areas of the Middle East and a key to understanding Soviet goals in the area is Baluchistan.

The area borders the eastern side of Pakistan next to Iran and Afghanistan. As most observers note, the region offers the Russians what they really want — a warm-water port on the Arabian Sea. The region has also been a trouble spot for Pakistan because of demands by tribal leader

FOOD CRUNCH™

**We've all experienced the fuel shortage
and most of us were unprepared.
Will you be prepared for the food crunch?**

We all take our food supply for granted. And for good reason. Americans have always had plenty. But we may be heading for one of the most serious periods in our history. Let me explain.

Back in 1963, I was driving home listening to my car radio. My wife asked me to stop by the supermarket to pick up some milk before I came home. It was during that long drive to the supermarket that I first heard that John F. Kennedy had been assassinated. When I got to the supermarket, the place was jammed. Hundreds of housewives, in the midst of their grief, were flocking to hoard food in case there was something serious behind the assassination.

Within no time, the store shelves were bare and I had realized something very interesting about human nature. When our security is threatened, the first thing we do is think of survival. We think of food.

I was so impressed by what I saw, I never forgot both the assassination and the scene at the food store.

Then about eight years ago, I met a friend who showed me a new food he had purchased. He took some dry-looking flakes out of a can, added water, and heated it up. It was delicious. He explained that it was a new process that his company had developed that dried out food, hermetically sealed it, and simply by adding water and heating, the original flavor returned to the food.

I remembered 1963 and the food panic I had witnessed. I realized that the food I had just tasted could be kept for years as insurance against ever being without food.

U.S. MONEY USELESS!

In a major economic collapse, those that survive are those who control the food. History has proven this. Money is useless.

If America would ever experience a major disaster or serious depression, the public could riot, the stores would be looted and money, gold or anything else would hold little value. Survival would be key.

I'm not suggesting that America is in for a total collapse or an enemy attack. But many of us were not prepared for the recent fuel shortage and would have found it hard to believe just a few years ago.

After eating the food my friend had prepared, I decided to commit myself to developing one of the most extensive lines of what I call survival food.

You might call it insurance. You can store a year's supply in a closet and always know that if anything ever happens, you're insured with something money couldn't buy.

THE BIG BREAKTHROUGH

The food I sell is good tasting, nourishing, dehydrated food. But, frankly, you may be skeptical. You may have the mistaken idea that these foods must be blah tasting, or a substitute for the real thing. That is until you taste it. You will be surprised at how delicious it really is. In fact, if you were having dinner at my home, you wouldn't know you were eating dehydrated foods unless I told you!

Some items can be eaten right from the can. Like my crunchy banana chips or tasty apple slices. With others, all you do is add water, rehydrate and cook like any other kind of food. It's easy to prepare. Simple as A-B-C!

You can enjoy these foods today or twenty years from now. Not so with other kinds of food. Canned foods soon spoil, are bulky to store and can cause deadly botulism. Packaged or boxed foods are quickly destroyed by air, moisture, and bad weather — not to mention larvae infestation and rodents. Frozen foods are quickest to go bad; for when an emergency arises, often electric power is off.

The only logical answer is my dehydrated foods. They are perfect for long term storage. You can easily store a year's supply in your pantry or closet. No refrigeration is needed. It's lightweight and easy to move. You get great variety ... over 100 different foods to choose from.

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The secret of my food is in the processing. I start by selecting only the finest quality, top grade food. It must be approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and harvested at just the right time.

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I package the food in special cans that are manufactured to my precise specifications.

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Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan for an independent state. So far, the Pakistanis have been able to hold on to the region, although much of the area is Tribal Trust Lands.

The Russians, always willing to foster a little discontent when it helps their goals, have been reported to be training more than 7,000 Baluchistan guerrillas near Kabul to foster a revolution in the area.

If Baluchistan does revolt against Pakistan, and wins, the Russian bear claw will get what it wants. The rebels will be tied to Moscow, via Kabul's puppet communist government, and the U.S. will have lost the fight to keep the Russians out of the region — without firing a shot or moving one ship from our fleet.

INVASION SURPRISING TO SOVIET OFFICIALS ...

Ilya Dzhirkvelov, a former KGB officer who defected to the West, claims the Russian invasion of Afghanistan came as a surprise to most of the middle-ranking Soviet officials.

According to Dzhirkvelov, the Kremlin pulled off the invasion to show the world — and, above all, Washington — that they could get away with it. He says he sees the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan as "proof of the contempt the Soviet leadership has for the U.S. President and world opinion."

Their contempt, however, may be a little more costly than they thought. Associated Press reports filtering out of Kabul have claimed 25 to 30 Russians killed in a valley which reaches into Paktia Province. This matches information SOF had received from Afghanistan that another attempt by the Russians to retake Paktia was shot down by the same Afghans who defeated them the first time they tried to take Paktia. This is the group SOF spent 11 days with last April for the September and October cover stories.

THAI WAR BRINGS SOME AID FROM U.S. ...

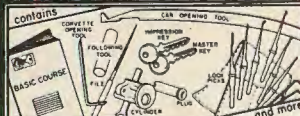
The boiling point between the Thais and Vietnamese communists isn't far away, as fighting along the Thai-Cambodia border continues to heat up. The U.S., realizing it has a big stake in the area, is at least doing something to stop the communists.

Last July, C-141 Starlifters ferried 38 106mm recoilless rifles and 16 tons of .50-caliber machine-gun ammo into the threatened country. Also brought into Thailand in the emergency airlift was another 30 tons of materiel on other cargo flights. Still to come were tanks and other weapons which are all part of a \$400-million order the Thais have placed with the U.S.

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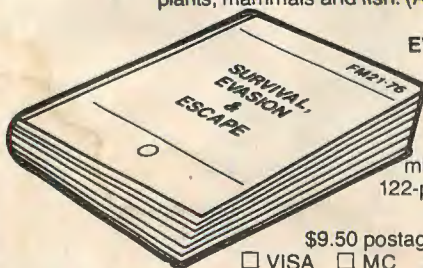
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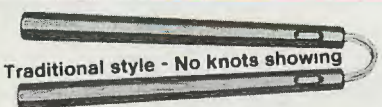


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At least in this fight, both the U.S. and China are pledged to defend the territorial integrity of Thailand against the Vietnamese communists.

The Thai military command has reported one helicopter and one light reconnaissance plane lost so far in the fighting, which ranges in an arch from 135 miles northeast to 135 miles southeast of Bangkok.

Four Vietnamese who were captured by the Thais reported that 2,000 Vietnamese troops crossed the Cambodian border into Thailand to destroy Cambodian rebel camps. The Thai foreign minister said that another 200,000 Vietnamese troops are in the border area as well.

THE PRISONER OF KABUL ...

While he is officially the president of Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal is a virtual prisoner of the Soviet Union.

Except for a dozen sentries at the main gate, the security of the old palace where he lives is in Soviet hands. Babrak's bodyguard, chef, driver, doctor and six chief advisers are all Soviets. The President's isolation is described as so total that his father — said to hold the Soviets in contempt — told Babrak never to enter his house with his Russian retinue.

But at least Babrak has the title — other Afghan civil servants don't even have that. Soviet officials reportedly occupy the senior positions in every Afghan ministry except the Foreign Ministry, where Afghans — because of dealings with foreigners — occupy Deputy Director positions.

In effect, all decisions are Soviet, and most Afghan civil servants simply sit at their desks and collect their paychecks.

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CHAD SEEKING MERCENARIES ...

Hussene Habre's forces in Chad
are reported to be actively recruiting
mercenaries abroad in their increas-
ingly successful campaign to defeat
the Libyan-backed forces in Chad.

In the past, Habre was strongly
supported by France, but the rumor is
that the French are backing off in
favor of Abdoulaye Lamana, former
Minister of National Economy. Lama-
na, now living at Kousseri, Cameroon,
where hundreds of thousands of Cha-
dian refugees are encamped, was in
Paris in May.

Chaibo Bichara, head of the
Democratic Revolutionary Council
(CDR), one of 11 political factions in
Chad and a former ally of Libya's Col.
Moammar Khadafy, claims Khadafy is
training 5,000 "legionnaires" for ser-
vice in Chad, Niger, Mali and Senegal.

Bichara says he fell out with Kha-
dafy when he learned the Libyan
strongman wanted most of northern
and central Chad for his support
against the Habre government and
claims troops are being trained at
Benghazie, Tripoli and Surt.

Bichara claims Khadafy wants to
create an Islamic Republic across all
of the Saharan and Sahel regions.

AIR FORCE FIGHTER WING FLUNKS TEST ...

Another reason "why" came to
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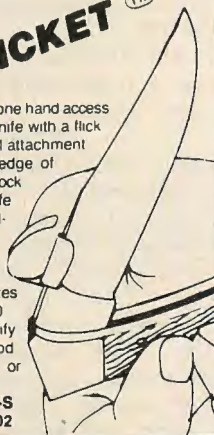
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fighters, only 23 aircraft were "mission capable."

According to newspaper reports, Air Force inspectors said the wing's performance was so bad that the operation test collapsed and the inspectors gave up after the second day of testing.

Reasons given for the failure were a lack of experienced manpower and a shortage of spare parts to keep the wing's fighters combat-ready.

CONVERSATION PIECE ...

From the July IPSC Information Bulletin comes this anecdote:

Larry Braden, of Honolulu, was among 177 calculus instructors chosen to go to Princeton, New Jersey to grade essay questions on this year's national examination. The first morning, he happened to sit with two math professors who were lamenting the fact that people were allowed to own revolvers. Braden quickly concurred, adding that revolvers were indeed a travesty, since it was so much easier to shoot someone with a Colt M1911A1 semiautomatic pistol. When the two bleeding hearts realized he was serious, they beat a quick retreat.

As Braden puts it: "So much for trying to be amiable with New Englanders. Apparently revolver is a generic term for handgun around those parts."

GOLD IN LIBYA'S SAND ...

Libyan strongman Col. Moammar Khadafy appears not to be satisfied with the "black gold" (oil) underneath Libya's sandy ground, as he has now threatened to seize German, British and Italian assets in his country unless those nations pay billions of dollars in reparation for battles fought there during World War II.

Asked by a reporter for the German magazine *Der Spiegel* if 35 years was not a bit long to wait before asking for

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reparations, Khadafy replied: "Why? The Germans paid reparations to Israel and are still paying. They don't get excited about that. Why should the demands of Jews be justified, but not ours?"

Libya, an Italian colony from 1912 until WWII, was occupied during the war by British and French armies and was the scene of bitter fighting between England and Germany. Khadafy says that to this day land mines are buried in many parts of the Libyan desert.

Since Khadafy's boys have made some rather big investments recently in PLO and Russian equipment, and some high-risk unsecured loans (Billy Carter), perhaps they are just trying to improve their cash flow.

OUR KIDS AREN'T ALL BAD ...

When President Carter signed the order for young men born in 1960 and 1961 to register for the draft there was a fair amount of squawking about it, reminiscent of the Vietnam era. What has been missed by the media, however, is that there are youngsters who are not complaining.

In the letters column of the *Kingman Daily Miner*, an Arizona newspaper, 15-year-old Denise Smith's letter, "Let's Keep Our Freedom," brought a "thank you," from Senator Barry Goldwater.

Denise wrote in her letter: "This country has its problems, serious ones at that, but we are still able to pick and choose our own lives, make our own decisions and what we do and say in our own homes is still our own business. What those anti-draft groups don't realize is that they are taking advantage of one of our rights given in the United States Constitution, the freedom of speech. If they can make use of our democratic rights and not be thrown in jail or shot for treason, why shouldn't they fight to help keep the rights they are using so freely?"

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Another example of some young people's concerns occurred in Colorado Springs at a public hearing regarding Fort Carson's expansion plans — a project which has met with stiff resistance from local environmentalists. A group of high school students in the area said they support the expansion plans because, "we're the ones who are going to have to be trained to fight and Carson needs the room for training — and we want to be trained right!"

We agree and add our support to those young people.

A **ARMY'S IFV
 HITS COST SNAG ...**

Cost overruns in the Army's new Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) have caused still more snags in the IFV's production schedule.

Three years ago, each IFV was going to cost about \$370,000. Projections now put the bug-ridden replacement for the present APC at \$1 million each by 1986.

According to the most recent reports, the Senate Armed Forces Committee wants the Pentagon types to find another contractor to build the IFV, to replace FMC Corporation. Claims are that both the Army's demands to upgrade the vehicle and FMC's failure to figure in the cost of inflation have pushed the vehicle's cost even higher.

In any case, the Army is still floundering around with present APCs. The few IFVs tested at Fort Carson, Colorado, earlier this year were hustled back to California and the FMC plant before newsmen had a chance to really find out if it passed the field tests. No one is saying how the vehicle performed at the tests.

S **SWEENEY INFO
 SOUGHT ...**

John Arvidson, a frequent writer for SOF, is working on a detailed article covering the life of one of our most colorful SOFers, Col. Charles Sweeney.

Sweeney fought under six flags and is regarded as one of the most outstanding of America's Soldiers of Fortune. His life, however, has a few gaps in it and Arvidson is having trouble filling them in. Any readers who have information on Charles Sweeney's life, times and adventures and would like to share that information with Arvidson can write John c/o the SOF office, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.



ABANDONED

Rhodesia Betrays Its Foreign Defenders

by Michael Peirce

THE final weeks of the war in Rhodesia were difficult ones for the individual soldier. Our enemies had been officially recognized and were viewed as our probable successors by the international community. There existed an atmosphere of uncertainty in which we performed routine duties without enthusiasm. Contacts with the enemy were few, hampered as we were by tactical restrictions of a political origin. To many, a sell-out appeared imminent.

The terrorists relaxed in comfortable assembly points tended by the commonwealth monitoring force, and were fed and supplied by the British and American governments. Thousands more roamed the countryside, intimidating the local populace and laying the groundwork for an overwhelming political victory.

Our soldiers, Rhodesian nationals as well as foreign volunteers, were losing interest in the war. Airline flight schedules and future employment were popular topics of conversation. Overheard in the Corporal's mess at KG VI barracks in Salisbury: "So Taffey, what's your next move?"

"Oh I don't know — Saudi Arabia, maybe Thailand, or I might give it a rest for a while. Got your ticket yet?"


"I sleep with it, man."

Taffey never made it to Thailand. Two weeks later he stepped on a boosted land mine and went home to Wales in a box. Rest in peace, brother.

We had been constantly reminded by the Rhodesian army that we were regular soldiers, not mercenaries. Unfortunately, the other side had a different point of view, prompting the foreigners to make uneasy jokes about ropes and firing squads.

We knew instinctively that our only chance of preventing a complete communist takeover was an all-out military offensive. Backed by massive intervention from South Africa, we could destroy the terrorists in their assembly camps and break their hold on the countryside in a lightning campaign. That we could win a tactical victory was obvious; whether we could survive the political consequences was not. People were starting to worry — it was a new ball game.

Personally, I was making the best of a bad situation. The army had given me a lot of valuable experience. I'd made some good friends, had some good times and enjoyed a welcome release from mundane civilian responsibilities.



My boss, Major Darryl Winkler of the armored corps, had recently been posted as Officer Commanding Demonstration Company, Rhodesian African Rifles. Detached at our own request, he was accompanied by three of his devoted henchmen from the support-infantry squadron of the Armored Car Regiment.

A Mixed Trio In An Orphan Company

Jerry O'Brien, Yves DeBay and I were an odd lot. Jerry was an ex-foreign legionnaire from London and had a taste for African women. Yves, a former Belgian tank commander, had sworn to fight to the last bottle of Gerac. A musician in civvy life, I had traded my bass guitar for a light machine gun and completed our trio of aggressive misfits.

Our transition from the well-equipped and tightly regimented armored corps to an African rifle company was smooth and clean. As Jerry put it, "New is good." The crisp efficiency and easygoing professionalism of the African soldiers and their European platoon leaders made Demonstration Company a pleasant posting for us.

A military orphan, the independent company had no parent battalion. As a result, there were administration and supply problems. With no intermediate headquarters to intercede on our behalf, we were always short of equipment and behind on maintenance. Nevertheless, Dem Company maintained a high level of training and an excellent reputation as a fighting unit.

As senior NCOs we had to display a confident front for the benefit of the African troops. This was not all that difficult once we got out in the bush with the company. Our attitudes improved immediately. We were operational again. Now we were fighting the

war, not losing it. The business of losing wars is handled at a much higher level.

Our ten weeks with the RAR were marked by much activity and little actual accomplishment. The major was constantly running off to Salisbury for meetings at which the high command wasted time and money figuring out what the troopies had known for weeks — it was time to put up or shut up.

Unburdened by the responsibility of command, O'Brien, DeBay and I passed the time easily. We took turns escorting the major, leading patrols and acting as handyman to the senior lieutenant at the battle camp. The latter duty consisted of sleeping late, drinking a lot of brandy and looking sincere at debriefings.

Sanyati Tribal Trust Land was typical of Rhodesian Army postings — thick bush, lousy roads and a nice settlement for the European administrators. We had little prestige with the white civilians in the area. Our troops had accidentally wounded two African villagers and an irate police reservist reproached our senior lieutenant, Terry Sharman. "Not only did your trigger-happy people shoot two locals, but now I've got to drive them eighty kilometers to the hospital in Que Que."

Hardened by eighteen months of war, Big Terry replied, "So who the hell do you think you are, anyway? The bloody flying nun?!"

This story made the rounds and we plummeted to the bottom of the social register. Having no shame, we continued to avail ourselves of the swimming pool, tennis courts and pub. But the ice

was finally broken and relations restored between the civilians and the army. The break came one night in the pub when I asked Dick, the most aloof civilian, the immortal question: "Did you hear the one about the Governor's bull dog?"

Just as our stay at Sanyati began to get tedious, we got the good news: Dem Company had been assigned a task for the anticipated election punch-up. We were to make an assault crossing over a river and, together with Tenth Battalion, Rhodesian Rifles, take out Assembly Point Foxtrot.



Author Michael Peirce with Belgian FN MAG machine gun he carried in Rhodesia.



The company began immediate assault-crossing exercises at a wide bend of the Sanyati River. The major decided that DeBay, O'Brien and I could best serve the exercise by acting as lifeguards. The few locals who passed that way were treated to the spectacle of Dem Company trudging back and forth across the old Sanyati. Three Platoon was accompanied as always by six scrawny, aggressive mutts. These warlike hounds were caught by the current and washed downstream to a chorus of indignant yelps. DeBay lost his boots in the rescue operation. "Merde, these wretched animals!"

A last minute re-evaluation of pre-election security priorities prompted a hurried transfer of our company from the Sanyati TTL to the Que Que — Silabella area. Despite our usual logistics breakdown, the experienced African troops had our new battle camp nearly complete by nightfall.

Enter SOF

Bob Brown and company joined us at Silabella, discreetly ignoring the disapproval of publicity-shy senior army officials. Burdened down with cameras and weaponry, the SOF staffers shared our excitement at the prospect of some action.

That night the major hosted a get together for the officers, senior NCOs and SOF people. The American journalists displayed their high-quality equipment and webbing, provoking a great deal of interest among us kit-starved

Rhodesian soldiers. Reaction to their weapons was more ambivalent. The European faction lusted openly after the lightweight American assault rifles. The Africans, on the other hand, viewed them as interesting novelties, preferring to put their faith in the aging — but still lethal — FN FAL. Their loyalty to that weapon would warm the hearts of the Belgian arms manufacturers.

The next day we split into six sticks and went looking for action. The major's group (including Brown) got into a sharp little contact that resulted in the capture of three terrorists. This may well have been the last action of the war.

From High Hopes to Heavy Hearts

In the midst of our after-action celebration, the news came over the radio that the communist-backed Robert Mugabe (Comrade President Mugabe to his followers) had been elected as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia by an overwhelming majority. We were crushed. In our most pessimistic nightmares we had never dreamt it would end like this. Remembering the promises made by the generals, the major issued us all the ammunition and grenades we could carry, and we eagerly awaited the order to march on Salisbury. It never came. We had been betrayed.

Two days of tension-filled uncertainty passed like a feverish dream. I was gathering up the major's kit when L/Cpl. Magara-

sadza approached me. "Sgt. Peirce, our general promised us the enemy would never take our country. He told us when we were in Gwelo that even if the politicians let us down, the army would save us. Can you tell me what is happening? The men are worried."

For the first time since I was a kid I wanted to cry. I turned away without answering. Later in the day the major called the men together and we mounted the vehicles to go to Que Que for anti-riot duty.

We patrolled the streets of Que Que with evil in our hearts. The locals apparently sensed the mood of the troops and sullenly dispersed without a word. The European officers were despondent. We constructed a temporary camp outside of town and the African soldiers quietly cooked their sadza and beef. The foreigners, myself included, planned the great escape.

Major Winkler informed the officers of our plan to leave, then called the Africans for a final formation. "You have fought bravely, but through no fault of yours the war is over and we have lost. You can return to your villages, you can remain here with the company, or you can make your way to South Africa where you will be welcomed and continue the fight there." He turned his head away and said quietly, "Goodbye."


We returned to Salisbury, converted every penny we could scrape up into U.S. currency and took the gap. And so we left the scene of the great betrayal and returned home to the shocking turmoil that is America in the 1980s. There is no where else to run.



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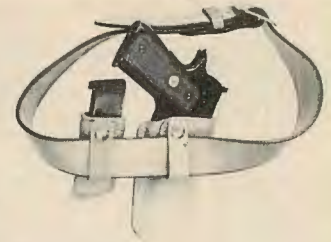
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